Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-123
Tuesday
25 June 1996

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FBIS-NES-96-123 *25 June 1996*

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International Affairs: Butrus-Ghali To Campaign in Protest of 'U.S. Treatment'

MM2406115796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jun 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham in New York: "Butrus-Ghali Intent on Confrontation; U.S. Veto Will Give Him a Place in History"]

[FBIS Translated Text] High-level sources close to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali said that he intends to campaign for a second term despite U.S. threats to veto a renewal of his term, "because as far as he is concerned, this is not about losing or winning, it is a matter of principle" in refusing to yield to "pressures and intimidation." They added that Butrus-Ghali is not worried that, because of the veto, his insistence on trying for a second term as UN secretary general could cause him some embarrassment, but that "on the contrary, if the Americans use the veto against him, he will have a place in history."

The sources added that Butrus-Ghali "is adopting a position which he knows could be a gamble. However, he is concerned that the world's only superpower is adopting such a position with regard to a secretary general who, to some extent, has made independent efforts, and that it is exerting pressures and intimidation to which he refuses to yield." They added that if Butrus-Ghali were to secure a second term or defeat the objective of the U.S. veto "it would be an honorable result," as this is an issue of dignity, and "if there is any affront, it would not be to the person of the secretary general but to all the states which support him, such as the European, African, Asian, and other states."

The sources said that the U.S. campaign against Butrus-Ghali's reelection is a personal issue, adding: "(the Americans) do not have another candidate, and therefore this is a stand against Butrus-Ghali."

The sources said that the two main factors which made the U.S. Administration decide to withdraw support from Butrus-Ghali and announce its decision are, first, U.S. election considerations "particularly since the Republicans accused President Bill Clinton of weakness, plus the fact that the Democrats are trying to win Irish votes by bringing up the name of Irish President Mary Robinson as well as the votes of U.S. Jews who were not pleased with the secretary general's decision to issue the report on the Qana slaughter in south Lebanon, and also because of dissatisfaction with the secretary general's role in the success of the oil-for food negotiations with Iraq.... As for the excuse of reforms within the United Nations, the answer to that is very objective and simple, namely that since 1972 all those in charge of reforms have been Americans."

The sources added that the second factor was that the Americans were "in a hurry" to make the decision and announce it ahead of three summit meetings: the Arab summit, the industrialized states' summit, and the OAU [summit], which will all be held during the period ending 10 July. The sources said that the announcement of the U.S. decision before these summits is intended "to make it difficult to express support for Butrus-Ghali."

The sources said that they are convinced that there is no way that another African could get the secretary general's job, "because if Butrus-Ghali is not the African candidate, the new secretary general will not be an African."

The sources explained why Butrus-Ghali announced his intention to put forward his candidacy for another term, saying: "After announcing at a press conference in Bonn that he had not taken a decision yet, he returned from the conference and was handed a copy of an article which was to be published in THE NEW YORK TIMES the following day, and which stated, citing informed sources, that the U.S. Administration had decided not to support him, threatened to use the veto, and had asked Cyrus Vance to convey its decision to the secretary general." According to the same sources, that is when Butrus-Ghali made his decision, before Vance made any contact with him.

The sources confirmed that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher contacted the secretary general on Tuesday [25 June] and informed him that the United States supports him and proposes extending his term for one year. Butrus-Ghali responded by rejecting this proposal because he believes that this would paralyze the United Nations for a year and paralyze his capacity for action.

The sources said that it is possible that Butrus-Ghali might be reelected, pointing out that he enjoys the majority's support and that the other permanent members of the Security Council might use the veto to counteract the U.S. veto. They explained, however, that the issue is more than just winning a second term, and that Butrus-Ghali has decided to wage the campaign to protest his treatment at the hands of the Americans.

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: 'Arafat Speaks at 22 Jun Session of Cairo Summit

NC2306131896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has announced that he is prepared to negotiate with the new government the Israeli people elected, but on the basis of Madrid summit, the agreements concluded between the two sides, and international legitimacy.

In his speech at the closed session of the Arab summit last night 'Arafat said the Palestinian people will not back down on what has been achieved or agreed, since this means returning to the prepeace era, a return with unpredictable consequences.

As an Arab nation we are committed to the peace process and we are eager to see the other side honor its commitments and pledges, as well as the agreements the Israeli Government signed, 'Arafat said.

He added: We started the agreements with the Israelis with the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. The Palestinians entered these areas after leaving Tunis, which hosted them. Some believed Gaza and Jericho First was the first and last [step]. But the agreement that followed led to the two most important steps: redeployment and the Israeli withdrawal from over 30 percent of the West Bank and the Palestinian elections, which were held for the first time on the land of Palestine and under the umbrella of the Palestinian Authority.

'Arafat continued: Some issues deferred to the coming stage are still outstanding, primarily, withdrawal from Hebron, the release of the detainees, the settlements, the refugees, and others, because of developments in Israel. But we succeeded in holding a meeting to inaugurate the final status talks in Taba on 5 May to actually start the final negotiations and respect the timetable stated in the agreement.

The Palestinian leader pointed out that this final stage includes Jerusalem, the refugees, settlements, borders, security, and relations with neighbors, in addition to the issue of water. He said these issues are stipulated in the texts and cannot be evaded or ignored. No positions should be taken on the outcome of negotiations on these issues, he said.

'Arafat said in his speech before the closed session last night that the era of peace that started with Madrid has developed a new vision in both the Arab nation and beyond. This vision is rich with optimism over a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

He added that the Palestinian issue is the core and essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But the comprehensive solution requires parallel progress on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks.

He continued: The unity and integration of the Arab position confirm that this nation is serious in seeking a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace based on the land-for-peace formula, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the Palestinian people's lawful rights.

The Palestinian leader called on the Arab summit to adopt a clear and firm position on the risks threatening holy Jerusalem, on the basis of international legitimacy as represented in the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 252 on Jerusalem. He said that calling for an extraordinary Islamic summit to discuss the fate of this holy city and its future is worth consideration.

'Arafat added that successive developments around the Arab world require its leaders to follow up the situation personally. He suggested that a seven-member committee be set up of Arab leaders themselves or their personal representatives to act as the nation's follow-up instrument. This committee can meet regularly or whenever necessary to be a standing Arab framework to solve our problems without interference in our affairs.

'Arafat described the summit as a dream come true after six years. He sees in it the embodiment of Arab solidarity, which should be protected with every available Arab resource. He stressed the need for strengthening the Arab League, the home of all Arabs and our protective shield in hard times.

Referring to the outcome of the Israeli elections, 'Arafat said they brought in extremist and radical parties, most of which call for adopting positions that conflict with international legitimacy and depart from the official agreements the former Israel Government signed.

The Palestinian president expressed his extreme concern at the Iranian stance, which insists on Iran's occupation of the islands of the fraternal United Arab Emirates and refusal to refer to legitimacy or international laws.

He reiterated the Palestinian Authority's support for all the measures the United Arab Emirates finds sufficient to use to defend its rights and restore sovereignty over the islands.

'Arafat denounced events in the fraternal state of Bahrain, stating that these events undermine the country's security and safety. He also denounced every attempt to interfere in Bahrain's internal affairs, firmly rejecting attempts to sow sedition, instigate riots, and

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push the country into the quagmire of terrorism and violence.

Touching on the embargo imposed on Libya and Iraq, 'Arafat called for alleviating the suffering of the two people and eliminating whatever mars a normal life in these two countries.

'Arafat denounced terrorism, noting that the Palestinian Authority works hard to confront signs of terrorism in the Palestinian territories. He said that the Authority believes that terrorism is exported and that it departs from the tolerant teachings of Islam.

'Arafat finally called on Arab leaders to adopt a firm and serious stance and turn it into actual measures to protect the Arab nation's interests and future.

Inter-Arab: Musa on Amendments to Summit Final Communique

NC2306084296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0813 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that he is fully satisfied with the Arab summit outcome. He noted that amendments have been made to the draft final communique.

In statements today he said Egypt also asked for some amendments to be made and added that the final communique will be accompanied by a separate paper on a mechanism for joint Arab action.

Asked if the summit's final communique will include a recognition of the Palestinian state, Musa said: We have actually recognized the Palestinian state.

Asked if Iraq's return [to the Arab fold] was raised at the summit, Musa said: There was no talk of its return.

Musa was asked whether the final communique includes a hard position on Iran and Turkey. He replied that Iran has differences with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt, and other countries. As for the disagreement with Turkey, it is a recent problem, he said. But, he added, the tone will be less than sharp concerning all these things. Asked if the mediation to solve bilateral Arab differences is a genuine move, the foreign minister said: It is genuine but balanced.

Inter-Arab: Musa Views Summit Outcome

NC2306175596 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stressed that the Arab summit, which ended its sessions in Cairo this afternoon, was eager to send the "right message" with regard to the peace process in light of the current conditions.

He said that the summit's final communique covered all the peace process angles and stressed that any step by one side will be met by a step from the other. He added: There were no pressures, but good and practical study and discussions among the Arab leaders in order to send the "right message" in light of the current conditions.

Speaking at a news conference held at the end of the Arab summit, Musa said that the Israeli Government's program was a "message from Israel," and what the Arab summit's final communique said today about the peace process was "the Arab summit's response to this message."

He stressed that the Arab summit did not make a "counteroffer" but called on everyone to abide by the peace process because the Arabs want a just and balanced peace. He expressed hope that Arab and Israeli desires will converge to ensure the success of the peace process. He noted that the summit asked him to thank the European Union for the positive statement it issued yesterday at the conclusion of the European summit in Florence, adding that this statement was distributed to the delegations attending the summit. He said: I want to praise this European statement and express our thanks to the EU.

In response to a question on whether President Husni Mubarak's meeting with Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir has succeeded in containing the problems between the two countries, Musa said: How can a one-hour meeting between the two presidents succeed in containing problems? However, this meeting is a start on the road.

In reply to another question on the Sudanese foreign minister's statement his morning that an Egyptian-Sudanese security agreement was signed today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: I have no knowledge of this.

On the Libyan-Western crisis, Musa noted that contacts on this problem will be begun right now in light of this communique.

On the U.S. announcement that it will use the veto against the renomination of Dr. Butrus-Ghali as UN secretary general for another term, Musa said: A number of Arab leaders raised this issue. On this occasion, we call on the United States to review its decision.

Musa expressed his confidence that U.S. diplomatic efforts to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East will continue.

Asked whether any meetings were held between the Kuwaiti heir apparent and the leaders of the countries

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that took countrary stands during the Gulf war, the Egyptian foreign minister said: During the consultations held on the summit's sidelines, there was no Arab leader who did not meet another.

Musa asserted that today's final communique will not be just a communique or mere words but will have executive backing and plans for all issues and stands.

In reply to a correspondent's question about Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement yesterday in which he stressed that Jerusalem is Israel's capital and the correspondent's description of Netanyahu as a terrorist, Musa told the correspondent: This question must be reformulated, because we are dealing with Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister and not as a terrorist, as you said in your question. Musa said: We reject all Israeli measures that impede the peace process.

Asked if the summit sessions were kept brief in order to avoid differences, Musa said: Every second during the summit was exploited. On the contrary, there was much agreement among the Arab leaders, and this is why the summit concluded its work quickly.

The Egyptian foreign minister had begun his news conference, which he held at Cairo's International Conferences Center immediately after the conclusion of the summit, by saying that it is clear that the final communique covered all the points connected with the peace process but it did not go into detail.

He stated that the summit was not subjected to any pressures and said that the contents of the communique were the result of a profound, careful, and clear-headed examination of the issues. It was intended to send a correct and full message at an appropriate time.

The foreign minister added: One must take a step here and a step there to ensure the success of the peace process.

In answer to a question about the distinguishing quality of this summit, 'Amr Musa referred to the fact that a large number of Arab leaders attended it. He said that this attendance by so many leaders was a result of the general Arab feeling that conditions in the region are very serious, something that makes it necessary to rebuild the Arab order.

He said that the steps that the conference took and the discussions that occurred during it show that there is a general Arab wish to deal with our disagreements in a way that does not hinder the general Arab march, either in connection with collective Arab action or the regional peace process.

Concerning President Husni Mubarak's meeting today with Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir on the sidelines of the summit, Musa said that it was a positive meeting and there will be more steps in this regard in the future.

Asked if Egypt and Sudan had concluded a security agreement today, Musa replied: I know nothing about this.

In answer to a question about what mechanism will be used to follow up on and implement the summit's resolutions, he said that President Mubarak, in his capacity as chairman of the extraordinary Arab summit that was concluded today, will take the necessary measures and will contact the other Arab leaders to follow up on the implementation of the resolutions.

He explained that the Arab foreign ministers will hold meetings for the same purpose and that contacts will be made with the Arab League secretary general and the Arab leaders to create a climate conducive to the implementation of the summit's resolutions, particularly with regard to the principle of trading land for peace, right for right, and security for security. He declared that the ultimate aim is to establish a "peace that is balanced and offers justice to all the parties concerned."

Asked if the Arab summit discussed contingency plans against Turkey, 'Amr Musa said: We did not discuss the issue of taking steps against Turkey; rather we discussed taking steps with Turkey in order to avert any peripheral influences on the peace process.

The aim, he said, is to tackle this issue and its causes.

In reply to a Turkish journalist's question about whether the paragraph in the summit's final communique about preserving Iraq's territorial integrity can be viewed as a threat to Turkey, 'Amr Musa reproachfully said: Does our backing for Iraq's unity constitute a threat to any other country?

The Egyptian foreign minister affirmed that a declaration of support for Iraq's unity should not be viewed as a threat to any other country unless that country has designs on Iraq.

He added: I don't think Turkey has such designs.

Asked to comment on the statement issued by the European summit yesterday backing the Arab summit's peace efforts, 'Amr Musa said he has been instructed by the Arab summit to extend thanks to the EU member states for issuing this positive statement.

He added that copies of the European statement were distributed to the delegations attending the Arab summit. Musa praised the EU statement and said: I have been instructed to extend thanks to the Europeans in front of you at this news conference.

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The foreign minister was asked if a new proposal took shape in the bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit to give the meetings authenticity instead of holding them merely for the sake of appearances. He replied that this has nothing to do with appearances. He added that the region is clearly experiencing a sense of concern and sensing the need to rally the ranks, narrow the gaps, and tackle disputes to avoid falling into the trap of having to find a new way out.

He added that the way exists in the form of international political relations and international and regional charters like the UN Charter and the Arab League Charter. I would like to point out here that we rely on intent and will. This is what we are trying to talk about, he said.

Touching on the continued international embargo on Libya, 'Amr Musa said that the UN Security Council has been urged to lift the sanctions because the harm is severe and constant and is making Arab states "concerned."

Asked about Egypt's position on Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali's reelection, the foreign minister said that a number of Arab leaders had raised the issue. He added that Arab states are calling on the United States to reconsider its threat to veto Dr. Butrus-Ghali's reelection. He added that the general feeling at the summit was support for the reelection.

The foreign minister affirmed that Arabs are reassured by each call for keeping up the agreed peace process. He remarked that statements coming from Israel so far make optimism "faint," because they are still put in the context of Netanyahu's program, which is "a very bad program where peace is concerned."

Musa said at the news conference that the Arab summit was an opportunity to turn over a new leaf and try to narrow the gaps among the disputing parties so that we can stand in the same rank to face new challenges.

He added that a meeting was held in that context between King Husayn of Jordan and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. It was "an important meeting," Musa said, adding that a dialogue will continue between the two countries to raise all the issues and discuss all the disputed points.

Asked if it is possible to make progress on all the peace tracks in light of the outcome of the Russian and U.S. elections. Musa said: At this summit we drew up the broad outlines of the Arab position on the deterioration that has occurred and what is expected for the peace process, and we discussed whether the process will continue and progress be made in the next few months.

'Amr Musa explained that what is now happening on the Arab scene is done in the context of supporting the peace process. He said: This requires that Israel demonstrate a positive and acceptable attitude.

He added that this should consist of Israel observing the agreed-upon timetable, adding that if the timetable is not respected, this will prove that the Israeli Government wishes to procrastinate or make the peace process "more difficult."

Musa continued: At any rate, we have received a message from Israel and today the Arab summit is sending out a message. Let us see how matters proceed. We hope that we will all succeed in returning to the negotiating table and that the Arab and Israeli sides will respect the principles on which the peace process is based.

Musa noted: We are not advancing a contentious position just because we wish to start an argument. Actually we wish to salvage the peace process. The Arab position will move forward to the degree that the Israeli position moves forward. We urge all sides to cling to the peace because we want "a balanced and just peace."

He continued: We are looking forward with some hope to the time when Arab and Israeli wishes coincide to ensure that the peace process succeeds.

Asked if there are signs that the United States will adopt a similar position to the EU's position on the Arab summit, 'Amr Musa replied: We understand that the United States is a sponsor of the peace process and has a basic role in advancing the peace moves. We hope that it will take a position similar to Europe's and that it will continue to back the peace process on the agreed-upon principles.

He pointed out that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's next visit to the region will make this clear.

He said: We are confident that the U.S. diplomatic establishment will adopt a positive stand and will continue its support for the peace process.

Asked about Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's recent remarks and their effect on the peace process, 'Amr Musa said: Netanyahu's remarks are not encouraging.

Regarding Egypt's future role in connection with the Arab summit's resolutions, Musa said that the summit's final communique specifies the Arab stances on a large number of issues, including the peace process.

Asked if there is a new Arab outlook on relations with Iran, Musa said that the Arab outlook on Iran was spelled out by the final communique issued today.

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Asked if there is a plan or a working paper to implement the summit's resolutions, 'Amr Musa said: Of course there will be preliminary plans to implement the decisions that have been made. The positions we have adopted must be expressed and we will do that in our contacts with others in connection with the Palestinian issue, inter-Arab ties, and bilateral problems. Formulas will be drawn up to implement the resolutions.

Asked if Iraq's return to the Arab fold will have to wait until Iraq implements all that the summit's final communique requires of it, the Egyptian foreign minister said: These demands are very important and necessary and must be implemented in order to end this crisis, especially since many Arab countries feel very bitter about this issue. However, this does not mean that we do not care about Iraq, the wellbeing of its people, and its membership in the Arab family.

In reply to a question on the Damascus Declaration, the Egyptian foreign minister said that a meeting of the member countries will be held in Muscat within two weeks.

Asked if Egypt alone will bear the task of calling for the removal of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, Musa said: I do not think that Egypt will be alone in this matter. He noted that this issue was one of the few paragraphs in the summit's final communique that were not amended and were fully agreed upon by the Arab delegations. He said that the possession of weapons of mass destruction will upset the region's strategic balance and thus could not achieve stability and balance.

He stressed that no country can be allowed to possess everything because this threatens security, balance, and stability in the region.

A correspondent asked 'Amr Musa this question: Yesterday, terrorist Binyamin Netanyahu said on the American network CNN that Jerusalem is outside the scope of negotiations. That was a message to the Arab summit. These words will unleash the resistance in Palestine or Lebanon. What could be the future consequences of this terrorist's statements?

'Amr Musa replied by saying: I am dealing with Binyamin Netanyahu as the Israeli prime minister and not as anything else. Therefore the way the question is formulated must be changed to "Israeli Prime Minister" and not terrorist Netanyahu so that I, as Egypt's foreign minister, can give you a proper answer.

Musa added: As I said before, the statements by Netanyahu are causing concern and we hope he will retract them. But you cannot prevent him from expressing the Israeli Government's stand. This is the Israeli Government's stand and must be put on the negotiating table. We, as the Arab stand, reject and have categorically rejected all the Israeli measures concerning Jerusalem.

He stressed that the important thing now is that the Jerusalem issue be placed on the negotiating table as a condition for an understanding on this issue. He said: Without this, there will be no solution to the problem. We will never recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital unless there are negotiations and the issue of Arab Jerusalem is dealt with in the same way.

In response to a question on Libyan Revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's steps to deport Palestinians from Libyan territory, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: We hope and expect that this will not be done and that there will be no more displacement of Palestinians or additions to their suffering. We all demand this, and we hope that the Libyan stand is the same.

Inter-Arab: Paper Reports on Cairo Summit Results

JN2406172196 (Internet) Al-Ittihad WWW in Arabic 24 Jun 96

[Report by 'Abd-al-'Azim Hammad and Ashraf Mustafa in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa yesterday said that an absolute collective commitment has been reached to hold Arab summits on a regular basis. In a comprehensive assessment of the second day of the Arab summit, Musa said that King Husayn will visit Damascus next month. He said the summit authorized the Jordanian king to begin dialogue with Turkish officials in the name of Arab states. The Arab leaders authorized Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, and the Arab League to hold contacts with Iraq to discuss the required steps for its return to the Arab fold. Libya's Colonel al-Qadhdhafi agreed to indefinitely postpone the deportation of Palestinians residing in Libya. An informed source described the assurances made by Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as steps in the right direction, and that joint Egyptian-Sudanese committees for security, political, and economic cooperation will be formed within the next few days.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ITTIHAD at the end of his news conference yesterday, the Egyptian foreign minister stressed that although the final communique does not explicitly refer to the principle of holding periodic summit conferences, all Arab countries that took part in the Cairo summit are absolutely committed to the principle of holding periodic Arab summits. He

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added that the idea of setting a date now for the next summit has been actually raised, but it was decided that it was better for various reasons for the Arabs not to set a date yet.

Summing up what the Egyptian foreign minister said, an informed observer said: The Arabs have to wait until the results of the Arab-Israeli, U.S.-Israeli, Arab-U.S., and Arab-European contacts appear. Then, there will be something new, either positive or negative. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will hold consultations with Arab kings, presidents, and amirs to set a date for the next summit. The observer indicated that the Cairo summit's final communique authorizes President Mubarak to follow up the results of the summit through consultations with Arab leaders. He said the next Arab summit is not expected to be held before the first half of next year. By then, the U.S. November 1996 elections will have ended and U.S. President Bill Clinton—who right now seems likely to win a second term—will have prepared his working program for his new presidential term. The observer stressed that the urgent objective of the Cairo summit was to formulate a new Arab position vis-a-vis the new situation in Israel and to take advantage of the contacts being held with it.

Arab leaders held over 30 bilateral and trilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit. According to AL-ITTIHAD special sources, those meetings resulted in important and specific results which the final communique did not mention. There was a broad agreement on specific measures to link normalization with Israel to progress on the path of peace. Among these measures, was an agreement that Israel should not be rewarded by extending any oil or gas pipelines through it to the Mediterranean ports. Also, the file of the project to extend an Egyptian natural gas pipeline to Israel has been closed. Meanwhile, an agreement was reached on gradual steps to slow down economic normalization with Israel.

An informed source told AL-ITTIHAD that the Arab leaders agreed to leave to every state the freedom to choose the appropriate time for implementing the measures to link normalization to progress in the peace negotiations.

Regarding the Syrian-Jordanian relations, the two sides' sources were in agreement that the meeting between Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on 23 June to complete the discussions that took place between al-Asad and Husayn on 22 June opened a new page in relations between the two countries, and that King Husayn will visit Damascus next month. The two sides agreed to halt media campaigns between them and to ensure calm on their border. They also agreed to exchange information on any possible terrorist activities. Finally, Jordan pledged to inform Syria in advance of any joint steps with Israel. This is intended to ease the Syrian concern that understandings may be reached in the eastern Arab region at its expense.

In this context, the Cairo summit authorized the Jordanian king to begin dialogue with Turkish officials in the name of all Arab countries on the pending problems between Turkey and Syria and on the Arab fears from the serious possible effects of the Turkish-Israeli military agreement.

The Arab leaders also authorized Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, and the Arab League to hold contacts with Iraq to discuss the required steps for its return to the Arab fold, provided that the pending problems between Iraq and Kuwait are not ignored. The results of these contacts will be presented to the Arab leaders, who alone will have the right to call on Iraq to rejoin the Arab fold.

Palestinian sources told AL-ITTIHAD that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi agreed to indefinitely postpone the deportation of Palestinians residing in Libya. He also agreed to extend financial aid to the Palestinian Authority to support infrastructure projects. Assistance will be extended to Palestine to fund investment projects under Egyptian supervision.

On Egyptian-Sudanese relations, the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir was the most important event yesterday morning. An informed Egyptian source described "the assurances provided by al-Bashir to Mubarak as an important step in the right direction. The two countries' foreign ministers are expected to meet soon to follow up the talks of the two presidents." This source said that joint Egyptian-Sudanese committees for security, political, and economic cooperation will be formed within the next few days. These committees are expected to start their work next month. The Egyptian source stressed that settling the Hala'ib dispute was not raised at this early stage.

Inter-Arab: Saudi on Iraq Reconciliation, 'Very Good' Summit Communique

NC2306100896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0917 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal has stated that the current collective Arab summit in Cairo has produced extremely positive results. In statements to journalists today, he noted that these results will appear in the final communique due to be released by the summit later today, which he described as "very good."

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The Saudi foreign minister was asked whether the Gulf states still had reservations about reconciliation with Iraq. He replied: There are no reservations over any Arab reconciliation. Reconciliation should be built on firm foundations; the summit's final communique clarifies this.

Inter-Arab: al-Asad-King Husayn 'Reconciliation' Meeting Detailed

JN2406120696 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 24 Jun 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] During its 22 June meeting, the Council of Ministers reviewed the proceedings of the reconciliation meeting in Cairo between King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad under President Husni Mubarak's sponsorship. The Council of Ministers devoted most of the session, which was led by acting Prime Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, to reviewing the proceedings of the meeting. During its session, the cabinet took a limited number of decisions, including a decision to pension off a number of security officers.

According to very accurate sources, AL-MAJD can confirm that Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti attended the meeting of the three leaders for 15 minutes only in order to brief them on the file of terrorism on external attempts to undermine security in Jordan. President al-Asad responded to al-Kabariti's 15-minute briefing in a short sentence whose purport is that Syria does not resort to such methods and that he the Syrian security organs, whom he asked about this before heading for Cairo, denied that they embarked on any of these attempts. After al-Asad's brief talk, his majesty the king asked al-Kabariti to leave the meeting immediately.

Reviewing the entire Jordanian stand, his majesty the king said that Jordan was very concerned about Arab solidarity and about having the best relations with Syria and the rest of the Arab brothers. The king added that after the signing of the Oslo accords, Jordan was forced to champion the national Jordanian interests over pan-Arab interests because Jordan has become uncovered.

King Husayn said that Jordan, whose potentials are limited, cannot wait for others to sign [peace treaties with Israel] because it does not have many cards to play with. The king added that Jordan's conviction was that it was in the interest of the Arabs if it overcame its impasse. The king did not forget to underscore his deep fraternal ties with President al-Asad on the emotional and humanitarian levels. At this point, President Mubarak asked to leave the meeting and said laughingly: This is it. Everything is fine now.

President al-Asad, who responded positively to the king's cordial words, said: We differ with you in the view toward the negotiations. Had the Arab position remained united and had the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah accords not been reached the Arab situation would have been better. Isolation has weakened the whole Arab position, not this or that Arab party, al-Asad said.

President al-Asad added: In general, it has always been proved that there will be no peace in the region without Syria. Syria's condition to participate in the settlement negotiations is to restore its occupied lands in the Golan, in addition to Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

His majesty the king hinted at Jordanian fears of the possibility of concluding deals in the region at its expense and of swapping land for regional roles for this party at the expense of that party. Reassuring his majesty the king, President al-Asad said that Syria's role will always be pan-Arab one, adding that Syria does not covet any regional role and it will not side with anybody against its Arab brothers no matter how far the differences reach. President al-Asad said that Syria will not relinquish an inch of Golan soil for any political roles.

The meeting between King Husayn and al-Asad lasted more than an hour, during which they exchanged cordial words that melted the ice between the two countries. However, there is a need for more meetings, and this might take place in Damascus soon.

Inter-Arab: Al-Kabariti on Relations With Syria, Turkey

MM2406134996 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jun 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Jordanian-Syrian Escalation Halted, But Disagreements Remain Unresolved"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo — King Husayn of Jordan described his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday as "a good start," while Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti stressed that the mere holding of the meeting, arranged by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and lasting an hour, "is positive." However, the statements made by Jordanian officials and the Syrian delegation's silence indicate that the meeting between the Jordanian and Syrian leaders has succeeded in halting the escalation between the two sides without resolving the outstanding disagreements.

Al-Kabariti told AL-HAYAH that there is no disagreement with Syria as regards the recovering of its land occupied by Israel. But "we are talking about a specific issue, that is the issue of the terrorism practiced against Jordan by organizations supported and sheltered by Syria."

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He pointed out that, "had the threats been limited to media statements, we would have paid no attention to them. But when these statements turn into field action, we have to demand that such actions be stopped."

Al-Kabariti was referring to Jordan's foiling of attempts to undermine its security and stability by extremist organizations which Amman believes are based in Damascus. He stressed that Jordan "was the first state to seek to, and is seeking to, achieve Arab reconciliation on the basis of constructive dialogue, but we will not neglect any questions that concern national security."

President al-Asad described his meeting with King Husayn as "good." He was answering a question asked by a Jordanian journalist following the meeting, which was held in the Egyptian president suite in the Meridien Hotel. He made no other statements on the meeting.

Al-Kabariti voiced his reservations about Syria's relationship with "Iran, which is occupying Arab territories, and about Damascus' position toward Turkey...the Sunni state which supported the Arabs in the second Gulf war."

He pointed out that Jordan is opposed to "establishing hostilities" with Turkey because of its military agreement with Israel, pointing out that the existence of a U.S. strategic alliance with Israel "did not prevent Syria from working to establish good relations with the United States."

Al-Kabariti urged Syria to "side with Jordan's interests, just as we are willing to side with Syria for the sake of recovering all its rights." [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab: Information Minister—Jordan Will Not Antagonize Turkey

NC2206171996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Jordanian Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir noted that Jordan, Bahrain - representing the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Algeria - representing the Arab Maghreb Union, had a united stand with regard to terrorism in the discussions that were held during this morning's closed session of the Arab summit.

Al-Mu'ashshir said in statements to reporters this evening that the proposal regarding this subject was clear, frank, and united. We feel that the situation is now appropriate for action on new and clear grounds, he said, which are based on the principle of mutual respect for all Arab countries and respect for their joint interests.

Regarding the issues the summit's final statement will address, the Jordanian minister said that there are numerous issues concerning the peace march and Arab unity and solidarity during the coming stage, in addition to other topics, one of which is terrorism, which the statement will address in all frankness.

Al-Mu'ashshir said the conference paved the way for a new beginning and stage of Arab relations, based on frankness and clarity and on strong grounds that pave the way for clearer and healthier relations than the previous ones.

Answering a question on whether the Israeli-Turkish military agreement was proposed as a point of discussion on the summit's agenda, al-Mu'ashshir said: The final statement will contain a paragraph about Turkey. We see no benefit in anyone becoming enemies with a friendly country like Turkey. We are not about to become enemies with this country.

The Jordanian information minister expressed his belief that there is no reason for this hostility. He described the atmosphere in which the summit is being held as very positive with regard to the issue of Arab unity.

He affirmed that Jordan backs and supports the establishment of Arab national security. He said that one should look into this matter from a comprehensive and undivided perspective. There are numerous attempts, the objective of which is to shatter this security.

He added that discussions during the morning session among Bahrain, Algeria, and Jordan were united over the need for a comprehensive understanding of Arab national security.

Inter-Arab: PA Official on Syria Reconciliation, 'Palestinian State'

NC2306101296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of information in the Palestinian Authority, has stated that President Husni Mubarak succeeded in removing differences between Syria and the Palestinian Authority [PA] during the meeting that brought together Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of President Mubarak.

The Palestinian official was asked if the summit's final communique includes an assertion of recognition of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. He said the Palestinian state has already been recognized with Jerusalem as its capital.

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Inter-Arab: Palestinian Official Comments on Summit Success

NC2306160996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian authority and member of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab Summit, said that President Husni Mubarak successfully led the Arab Summit as did all the Arab leaders who contributed to the success of this conference. He praised Egypt's efforts to convene the conference and to bring it to a successful conclusion. He added that the conference was a rally for peace.

At a news conference, Sha'th said another Arab summit will be held in the future to strengthen Arab solidarity and iron out Arab differences.

Dr. Sha'th said the Arab Summit conference is a boon for the peace process, for the Palestinian people, and for the Palestinian National Authority, because it is the first Arab gathering in six years. He asserted that the conference's aim is to promote the peace process on the basis of the Madrid Conference and the Security Council resolutions. He added that this conference upheld the Palestinian rights which are based on Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territories, the establishment of a Palestinian with Jerusalem as its capital, ending the Israeli settlement activity, and solving the refugee problem.

Dr. Sha'th said the summit scored great achievements, noting that the bilateral meetings that were held, especially the Jordanian-Syrian meeting and the Egyptian-Sudanese meeting, were positive and opened the door to Arab solidarity. He said the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was positive and friendly and opened a new chapter in Palestinian-Syrian relations. He indicated that President 'Arafat will pay a visit to Damascus shortly.

Dr. Sha'th said that the Arab Summit sent a clear message to Israel to the effect that "if you proceed in the peace process, we will proceed in it, but if you try to scuttle the peace process, we will adopt another stance." He added that the agreement between Palestine and Israel is not a bilateral agreement but an international agreement backed by all world powers, especially the United States and Russia, the cosponsors of the peace process.

Dr. Sha'th expressed his satisfaction with the summit's final communique because it clearly spells out the Palestinian goals, such as the right to self-determination and to establish a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and ending the Israeli settlement activity in the Palestinian territories.

Asked whether 'Arafat and al-Asad discussed the Palestinian groups opposed to the peace process, Sha'th said this an inter-Palestinian affair. The two leaders discussed Palestinian-Syrian relations.

Asked about the financial difficulties facing the Palestinian Authority and whether the Arab Summit will give it financial aid, Sha'th said the summit did not discuss any funding projects. The important thing now is to adopt a united Arab stand and restore Arab solidarity.

Inter-Arab: Palestinian Envoy in Cairo Views Arab Summit, Jerusalem

NC2406070196 Cairo MENA in English 2313 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian ambassador here Zuhdi al-Qidrah said that the expanded Arab summit, which wound up here earlier today, was an honorable image which revived hopes of Arab countries and announced to the whole world that the Arabs are united.

Al-Qidrah told MENA this evening that the Arabs opted for peace provided that it is a just and comprehensive one. The Arab leaders expressed their refusal of the new Israeli attitude which adopts hard-line trends.

The Palestinian ambassador said the Arab summit made it clear that the question of Jerusalem will remain the basis of all tracks of Arab-Israeli talks.

The Madrid conference and UN Security Council resolutions have given the question of Jerusalem a special importance, contrary to what the leaders of Israel are now moving towards, he said.

The summit witnessed several Arab reconciliations which will be remarkably instrumental in promoting Arab-Arab solidarity, he said.

The Palestinian ambassador said the Arab summit came as a coronation of Egypt's efforts and role, referring to the bilateral and tripartite Arab summits held before the Cairo expanded meeting.

Egypt, under the leadership of President Mubarak, has proven once again that higher considerations of Arab nationalism come atop of anything else, he said. Egypt does not seek leadership because history makes it incumbent upon Egypt to play this role, he said. The role played by Egypt is acceptable to Arab countries and is not imposed on them, said the Palestinian ambassador.

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Inter-Arab: Mubarak—Summit Not To Discuss Halting Israel Normalization

NC2106181696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)— President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the Arab summit to be held in Cairo tomorrow, Saturday, will discuss two points: Backing the peace process and achieving Arab solidarity.

He pointed out to reporters this evening that the summit will not discuss halting normalization of relations with Israel and that its agenda has no points other than the two above-mentioned items.

Asked whether the summit will link normalization with Israel to progress in the peace process, the president said: There will be no linkage at the summit and no one will force anything concerning normalization with Israel. Some statements have been made here in this connection but they are not true. Many statements were fabricated in order to worsen the atmosphere between Israel and Arab states, he said.

The president added: We hope the peace process will advance. We call on Israel to continue to implement its agreements, because this is the central point in the peace process [Marbat al-Faras fi 'Amaliyat al-Salam]. We want peace and I think that Israel wants peace too.

President Mubarak was asked what resolutions the Arab summit will pass, particularly after Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's statements that annoyed the Arab leaders. Mubarak reiterated that the summit will discuss supporting the peace process, implementing what has been agreed upon and then resuming the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He added: We have followed these statements; they might have been made for election or other purposes.

Asked about U.S. statements supporting Netanyahu, President Mubarak said: I do not want to get into details until I meet Netanyahu and get acquainted with him personally. I have not met him; after I do I will be able to judge him. He added: I do not know the man or his true intentions. When I talk to him face to face about all the issues, I will be able to judge him.

President Mubarak was asked if he expects a change in Israel's stand after the scheduled meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Netanyahu. Mubarak said: I hope Israel will comply with all the accords it has signed and I believe it will not deviate from them.

Answering a question on events if Netanyahu rejects the Arabs' stand on peace, President Mubarak said: Events must not be anticipated, but I do not believe that Netanyahu will reject it.

President Mubarak was asked what resolutions the Arab summit will pass to support Syria in the face of Turkish threats. He replied: We will not go into the details of statements made here or there. We want to clarify the situation after passions calm down. After the summit we will see what can be done. Turkey and Syria are friendly countries and I do not believe that they will take up arms against each other.

On differences of views among Arab countries, President Mubarak said: This is the leaders' concern and responsibility.

Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Views 'Hasty' Netanyahu Reaction to Summit

NC2406124096 Cairo MENA in English 1150 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 24 (MENA)— Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today said Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was too hasty in his reaction to the Arab Summit resolutions. Netanyahu was too fast and such matters require treatment with vision and judgment, and not just issuing statements with such haste and tension, 'Abd-al-Majid said. The new Israeli prime minister accused the Arab Summit yesterday of trying to dictate terms for peace talks. 'Abd-al-Majid called on Netanyahu to comprehend matters and put into consideration that it would be in his interest in the first place to establish a just, comprehensive and balanced peace. Israel would be the first beneficiary while the region and the Arab countries would come in second and third, he added. The Arab League secretary general said the issue of Iraq was not discussed at the summit. This issue was settled at the tripartite Damascus summit conference, he added. Asked about Iraq's commitment to the summit's resolutions, 'Abd-al-Majid said Iraq is a member of the Arab League and its absence is only temporary, he added. He lauded the EU's welcoming statement of the Arab Summit resolutions.

'Abd-al-Majid, describing the summit's outcome as a healthy sign, said it was successful by all means in closing Arab ranks and lauded President Husni Mubarak for bringing Arab leaders together. The Arab League will remain the hope of the Arabs and a symbol of their identity, he said, lauding the summit's resolutions relevant to activating and supporting the league in the coming phase. The Arab League cannot be substituted by any other system, he added.

'Abd-al-Majid described as civilized and highly responsible the talks that were held among Arab leaders at the

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open and closed sessions of the summit. The Arab leaders have responded to and settled on issues tabled on the summit's agenda, such as the Arab Code of Ethics, Arab cooperation, the Arab Court of Justice, and the Mechanism on the Settlement of Disputes.

Inter-Arab: League Official on Netanyahu's 'Hardline Stands'

NC2406185096 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Jun 96 p 5

[Report on an interview with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, Arab League assistant secretary general for political and international affairs, by correspondent 'Ali Khamis; date and place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Neither peace under Shamir nor peace under Peres was better than peace under Netanyahu. This was stated by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, Arab League assistant secretary general for political and international affairs, who underlined Israel's lack of seriousness in the peace negotiations, which began five years ago. He believes at the same time that the chances for explosions in the Middle East are inevitable if Netanayhu adheres to his hardline stands and Israel continues to conclude alliances hostile to the Arab countries. Above all, the situations in the region will explode in light of the fact that the United States continues to play the role of dishonest broker since the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. Ambassador al-'Allaf stressed in this interview that there will be no peace until the Middle East is freed from destructive weapons, something that Israel rejects. He also believes that the Arabs still hold some cards to use in the peace negotiations if the train that is rushing toward and normalization with Israel stops. He noted that Arab public opinion is now rebelling against the hardline U.S. and Israeli stands, and the coming days will possibly witness increased Arab solidarity in view of the official and mass reactions that followed the Qana massacre.

[Khamis] Will peace in the Middle East be halted following Netanyahu's victory in Israel's elections?

[Al-'Allaf] Peace was not healthy under those who preceded Netanyahu. Israel is Israel. Now we will see how the political candidate Netanyahu will differ from Netanyahu the prime minister and how the Netanyahu who represented only the rightwing Likud will differ from the Netanyahu who is supposed to be representing all Israel—that is, the extremist Likud's Israel and the less extreme Labor's Israel. If Netanyahu adheres to the extremist stands he declared during the election campaign, then this will of course undermine the peace process. But if he becomes more committed to the bases and principles of the peace process, then the situation might remain difficult because, as I said, during the five years of the peace process we saw that Israel was not serious about the negotiations, either under Shamir or under Peres. Now, under Netanyahu the important thing is that Israel should become convinced that peace — that is a fair and comprehensive peace based on justice — is as much in its own interest as it is in that of the Arabs and the international community.

[Khamis] Some people are saying that Jerusalem has been lost with the Likud in power.

[Al-'Allaf] Neither Jerusalem, Palestine, nor the other territories are lost regardless of whether the Likud is in power or not. There have always been Israeli ambitions. Jerusalem will be lost if the Arabs loose their determination to retrieve it. It will be lost if the Arabs forego the elements of pressure and influence one after the other, if they continue normalization and their haste, and if they continue to give away for free the weapons in their hands, such as the boycott and establishment of ties. Jerusalem and the Arab territories will of course be lost if the Arabs do so.

But if the Arabs realize the need to return to coordination and unified ranks and to act in the same way that others act toward them, then there is hope. I do not believe that a nation as great as ours one with its long history can decline this way. There are hopeful signs of summits and meetings to salvage this situation.

[Khamis] Do you think the Arabs still have some means of exerting pressure?

[Al-'Allaf] Yes, if they want. First of all, there are many influential Arabs who have not been swept up by the excitement of rushing into Israel's arms. There are still Arab countries that are determined not to establish normal relations with Israel unless a just and comprehensive peace is established, particularly those involved with the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks. Secondly, I believe that even those Arab countries that have acted hastily will now reconsider their stands out of their sense of Arab unity. I would establish ties with Israel when there is real peace, but I cannot continue doing so if I discover that it is a counterfeit peace.

[Khamis] Is there no initiative to revive the Joint Arab Defense Pact in order to restore the lost balance with the extremist Israeli right?

[Al-'Allaf] It is not the Arab League as an organization that should implement pacts, but the members states. The charters the Arabs have agreed upon still exist, but implementation is in the hands of the member countries. The Arab League calls for unity of ranks; and as an organized body it encourages the Arabs to come together and consider what they should do. We must

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look at the future and pan-Arab security from an Arab perspective. Countries in all the regions of the world are forming blocs and they are now dealing with us as blocs. We must therefore look on the challenges facing us not from the narrow perspective of separate Arab countries but from a comprehensive pan-Arab perspective. There are signs that the Arabs are now seriously considering restoring Arab solidarity, God willing.

[Khamis] How serious are the Arab countries about clearing the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction?

[Al-'Allaf] The Arab countries are serious about concluding an agreement to clear the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction. Several meetings of experts were recently held at the Arab League to discuss the proposed Arab agreement on this issue. The drafting of this agreement is in its final stages and its implementation hinges on the attainment of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. To demonstrate their earnestness, the Arab countries are continuing work on this issue because they look forward to a future of peace in the region, a future in which there is no danger of nuclear weapons.

[Khamis] Does this mean that there will be no formal and binding treaty on this matter?

[Al-'Allaf] It will not become a treaty unless a comprehensive peace is established. One cannot imagine how such a treaty could exist while nuclear weapons continue to be found in the region.

Inter-Arab: Al-Qadhdhafi Sees No Difference Between Likud and Labor

MM2406103096 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jun 96 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Qadhdhafi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Problems Between Us and Kuwait; I Will Return to Libya by Air"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT following a meeting with Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, and after his attempt to arrange a meeting between al-Bashir and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, that there are no problems between Libya and Kuwait. He added: "I shook hands with Kuwaiti Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah." He wondered: "Why should I not shake hands with him?"

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi stressed that Libya's aim is to bolster Arab unity and unite Arab ranks, and that his wish is to see inter-Arab relations, and relations among Arab leaders, in their best status.

On his mediation between Egypt and Sudan he said: "The two countries need no mediation, as they are closer to one another than to Libya."

On what has been termed as [his] violation of the air blockade imposed on his country, he said: "I did not violate the blockade. I came by air directly, and I will return the same way." He stated that he had not raised the blockade issue at the Arab level, on the grounds that it was not on the agenda, and that the conference was held to discuss two matters — Arab reunion and the salvation of the peace process. On his position on normalization with Israel he said: "We are not interested in Israel or (Prime Minister Binyamin) Netanyahu, nor do we even know the difference between the Likud and the Labor or the hawks and the doves. We know that there is an Israel occupying Palestine, and it must end the occupation."

Inter-Arab: Al-Qadhdhafi on Palestinian Issue, Summit, U.S. Stand

NC2306152196 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)— Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, said that the most important result of the Arab summit from Libya's view is the summit's adoption of the Libyan proposal to establish an Arab union and that the Arab League Council will discuss this proposal so that it can be presented to the next Arab summit.

Speaking at a news conference he held this afternoon at his place of residence at the Meridien Hotel, al-Qadhdhafi praised the Arab countries' stand on the sanctions imposed on Libya in light of the continued U.S. intransigent refusal to lift them despite Arab and international mediation efforts.

He underlined the Libyan people's support for the Palestinian issue. He said: There are no disputes between us and Europe and the United States. The position we are in now is the result of Libya's support for the Palestinian issue. There will be no problems between Libya and any other party, whether the United States, Europe, or the Jews, if the Palestinian issue is resolved.

In response to a question on his meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the summit sidelines, al-Qadhdhafi said that it was the result of President Mubarak's initiative. He added that he was assured about the PLO's and Palestinian people's stand on the

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charter and this assured him about the issue of liberating Palestine.

On the Libyan stand on the deportation of Palestinians from Libya, al-Qadhdahfi told correspondents today that this was Libya's contribution to the Palestinian people's return to their land and no one can deny Libya's support for the Palestinian people and Libya's present sufferings as a result of this support.

Al-Qadhdhafi called on Palestinians wherever they are in the world, whether in Libya, Syria, Egypt, or anywhere else, to march back to Palestine carrying olive branches, starting first in the West Bank and then returning to the houses from which they were expelled in 1948.

Regarding the peace process, he said that the Arabs have laid down a condition that any next step must be countered by steps from the other side and that Israel will lose the former steps if the Israeli intransigence continues.

On his recent statements on Kuwait, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said that Libya did not support Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. But he noted that Libya supports any move by the Kuwaiti people toward unity with Iraq or Saudi Arabia, adding that the Kuwaiti people have the right to decide this or that.

In reply to a question on whether Libya is encouraging a "differentiation" between the European and U.S. stands on the Libyan-Western crisis, al-Qadhdhafi said: The United States sacrificed Europe's interest in the world for the sake of its own interests. The differences are now between Europe and the United States and not with us. It has become clear that the sanctions imposed on Libya were meant to "deal a blow to Europe's interests."

Inter-Arab: Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Embargo, Palestinians, Kuwait

NC2306161896 London MBC Television in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Report by correspondent Tariq al-Shami from Cairo—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Shami] In the first reaction to accusations that he violated the air embargo on Libya by traveling to Cairo by air, Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said in an exclusive statement to MBC television:

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Does it make sense for Egypt to call for an Arab summit and then for the Americans call it to account and ask it why this leader came by plane, why that leader came riding a donkey, and why a third leader came in a cart? This is absurd. Have things become that bad? This is a summit. If I had come by car, I would have arrived when the summit ended. How can we travel 5,000 km by land to attend a summit that ends in two days? This is inconceivable. Who can protest something like that?

[Al-Shami] Do you plan to return by air, God willing?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course, and we will travel to Algeria by plane, and the Algerian president will travel to Libya by plane. This has nothing to do with the embargo. The embargo is imposed on the Libyan Airways, on cargoes, and tourism; this is essentially an economic punishment. How will our economy benefit by us travelling to Egypt by plane?

[Al-Shami] President al-Qadhdhafi, who expelled the Israeli journalists from a news conference he held on the sidelines of the Arab summit, expressed satisfaction at the tone of the final statement, especially the part that concerns Israel.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Although it contains some diplomatic phrases and flattery of the international situation in general, the final statement contains things that underline what the leaders said in the closed sessions. (?There were things) in the statement that can be considered serious, showing that the Arabs began to demonstrate tough positions toward their enemy, and (?telling) America that it should reconsider its disdain of the Arabs.

[Al-Shami] Political circles turned their attention to a second round of talks between al-Qadhdhafi and Yasir 'Arafat at a time when the issue of expelling the Palestinians from Libya remains unresolved. The Libyan leader did not soften his position on the expulsion of the Palestinians from Libya, which began a few months ago.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I call for the return of all the Palestinians, not only those who live in Libya. All of them must return to Palestine peacefully, without war, without fighting, and without fedayeen operations. After that, the solution will develop naturally.

[Al-Shami] But do you not think that this may create tension with President 'Arafat or the Palestinian Authority?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No. Strategically, we agree on this. But temporarily, this may create administrative or financial problems, and these can be overcome.

[Al-Shami] But what about Arab reconciliation, especially your relations with Kuwait?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We have no problems with Kuwait. I just mentioned Kuwait, Libya, and other countries as examples. This is understood. Perhaps the press reported things out of context. That was nothing really; I do

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not even care what Kuwait said about that. That was not really anything important. I said that and I was responsible for it.

Inter-Arab: Al-Qadhdhafi—1997 Arab Summit in Syria

JN2406141196 (Internet) Al-Ittihad WWW in Arabic 24 June 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—News agencies—Before departing Cairo yesterday after attending the Arab summit meetings, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stated that the next summit will be held in Syria next year.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat To Meet Christopher in Cairo 26 Jun

JN2506074496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will meet in Cairo tomorrow with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, said President Yasir 'Arafat will emphasize to the U.S. secretary the need for Israel to honor dates and signed agreements, particularly regarding the Israeli occupation forces' withdrawal from the city of Hebron without delay or procrastination, the release of prisoners and detainees, and lifting the military siege imposed on Palestine. WAFA added that the president will reaffirm to Christopher the need for the United States to activate its role as sponsor of the peace process to face the dangers threatening this process.

Within this framework, the U.S. diplomat reiterated his determination to ask Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu to hold frank and direct dialogue with President Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority. Christopher's remarks came in his statements upon his arrival in Tel Aviv this morning.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Chairs Meeting To Assess Summit

JN2506080596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat presided over a joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the Council of Ministers at the presidential office in Gaza last night. The meeting was attended by Salim al-Za'nun, speaker of the Palestine National Council, and Ahmad Quray', speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

The president presented a full assessment of the Arab summit, which was held in Cairo 22-23 June. The joint meeting valued the final statement issued by the summit, particularly its reaffirmation of the Palestinian principles on self-determination, establishing an independent Palestinian state, and Jerusalem, as well as its commitment to the peace process on the basis of the Security Council resolutions, the land-for-peace principle, and Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory. The PLO Executive Committee and the Council of Ministers praised Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's determined efforts to close Arab ranks and revive Arab solidarity.

The PLO Executive Committee and the Council of Ministers also greeted and thanked the EU states which were unanimous, in their meeting in Florence, on considering the Palestinian issue the pivot of the Middle East peace process. The members of the Executive Committee and the Council of Ministers were briefed on international stands, represented by world leaders' messages to President Yasir 'Arafat, particularly the messages from U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

The joint meeting asserted the need to continue the political and diplomatic move on the Arab and international levels, as well as to reinforce the domestic moves, to protect the peace process.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Adviser on Talks With Syrian, Libyan Leaders

NC2406154396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza, 24 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has described the Arab summit which ended in Cairo yesterday as successful and constructive and said that its resolutions were very important and constituted a basis for restoring and strengthening Arab solidarity.

On the future of Palestinian-Syrian relations, 'Arafat told correspondents today that overall what happened at the Arab summit was a new page among us all.

President 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah praised Egypt's role and President Husni Mubarak's efforts to ensure the success of the Arab summit. In an interview with a MENA correspondent, he said that the Egyptian role was unique and active and was a success for Egypt and the whole Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Asked if President 'Arafat will visit Damascus soon, Abu-Rudaynah said that the meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and 'Arafat was cordial and successful, recalling in this respect President al-Asad's words to

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'Arafat to the effect that the doors of Damascus are open to him. But, he added, no date has been set for the visit yet.

On 'Arafat's meeting with al-Qadhdhafi, Abu-Rudaynah said that Libya has a clear stand in support of Palestinian rights. He added that 'Arafat thanked al-Qadhdhafi for promising to repeal the decisions taken against the Palestinians and expressed hope that this will be implemented soon. He said that al-Qadhdhafi's talk with 'Arafat was calm and positive and was held at President 'Arafat's request.

On President 'Arafat's session with Jordan's King Husayn, Abu- Rudaynah said that it was an important working session. He described Palestinian-Jordanian relations are excellent. He said that there is Palestinian-Jordanian coordination and constant contacts, and Jordan has a clear stand in support of Palestinian rights.

Abu-Rudaynah called on the Israeli side to abide by the peace process in the same way that the Arab side is abiding by it.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Adviser Lauds Results of Cairo Summit

JN2406155696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, said the expanded Arab summit, which ended in Cairo yesterday, was a Palestinian summit because it emphasized the consistent and clear Arab position in support of the Palestinian demands, led by establishing a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Abu-Rudaynah considered the Cairo summit to be a pan-Arab victory in terms of the wide Arab attendance and the bilateral and trilateral meetings held during the summit. He added that the summit was successful and rose to the level of challenges.

Abu-Rudaynah lauded Egyptian efforts to close the Arab ranks and promote Palestinian-Syrian as well as Palestinian-Libyan relations. He also hailed the Arab readiness to support the PLO and the National Authority.

He asserted that the meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad was warm, and that President al-Asad welcomed a visit by President 'Arafat to Damascus, but its date has not been set yet.

Regarding the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Abu-Rudaynah said that al-Qadhdhafi responded to the Palestinian demand to stop expelling Palestinians from Libya. Abu-Rudaynah expressed hope that a quick decision will be made in this regard.

President 'Arafat's adviser lauded Palestinian-Jordanian relations and the meeting held between President 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan. He asserted that the Palestinian-Jordanian committees will be activated to enhance cooperation between both fraternal countries.

Palestinian Affairs: Legislative Council Speaker Hails Summit Resolutions

JN2406154996 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, by 'Arif Salim, from the "Today's Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Quray'] There is no doubt that this summit was a very important event on the Arab scene in general, and the Palestinian scene in particular. It was the first Arab summit to be held since the end of the Gulf war, which was devastating. It was the first successful Arab attempt to rehabilitate Arab solidarity. We as Palestinians can only express our great satisfaction with the serious way in which the Arab summit and Arab leaders handled the Palestinian cause. This summit reiterated Arab support for Palestinian negotiators and Palestinian rights to Palestinian land. It also underlined Arab support for the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital, as mentioned in the summit's final statement.

This position by Arab leaders will only bolster our firm determination to stick to our Palestinian national rights before the start of the final-status negotiations. We trust that this clear message by the Arab summit will clearly reach all Arab citizens to promote their determination, and all Arab officials to foster greater efforts on their part in this regard. Likewise, this message will find its way to all Israelis and all Israeli officials. It will tell them that Arab support for the major Arab causes, such as the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict has remained unchanged. As a matter of fact, this support is being reinforced now more than ever before. The Israelis have received the message clearly. Consequently, the reactions voiced by the Israelis this morning were strange. Similarly, this message was clearly received by the international community and the cosponsors of the peace conference. The statements made and the position spelled out by the EU summit were great. They are in harmony with the position spelled out by the Arab summit. European leaders expressed support for the Palestinian people's right to

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self-determination, and warned against the collapse of the peace process. Consequently, I cannot but express deep satisfaction with this Arab summit.

This summit improved inter-Arab ties, which were in a crisis stage, to say the least, particularly between Syria and Palestine. The meeting between Presidents Yasir 'Arafat, Hafiz al-Asad, and Husni Mubarak was well received by all Palestinians in Palestine and elsewhere. God willing, with follow-up efforts, this meeting will turn a new leaf in bilateral relations in terms of coordination, consultations, and integration between the two countries. Additionally, the meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn was received with satisfaction. The meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was also well received. It is our hope that this meeting will be followed up by other efforts so that Libya may cease deporting Palestinians working in Libya during these critical circumstances.

Given all of the above, I believe this summit was successful in the full sense of the word. The results and ramifications of this summit will crystallize in the next phase. God willing, this will be to the advantage of the Arab nation.

One more positive thing about the summit: The Arab leaders decided to follow up on the implementation of their resolutions and recommendations. Arab foreign ministers will meet in September to evaluate progress in the implementation of these resolutions.

[Salim] Mr. Abu-'Ala': You are well aware that Arab summits have become institutionalized pan-Arab events that will continue to take place without interruption. God willing, the next Arab summit will be held next September, as mentioned in news reports. Will Arab summits be the higher Arab authority to debate the outcome of negotiations in general? Do you expect the emergence of an Arab negotiating instrument espousing a clear Arab strategy?

[Quray'] The Arab summit will strengthen Arab negotiators. It is very important. It is the authority that will debate and decide on all pan-Arab issues. It was agreed that the summit will be held annually. Next September, two months from now, there will be no summit. There will be a meeting for the Arab foreign ministers to do follow-up work on the summit resolutions. We believe it would be very useful if the outcome of negotiations on the separate Arab tracks are reviewed by an Arab authority that is aware of the circumstances and conditions and firmly supportive of national and pan-Arab stands. Consequently, we hope the Arab summit will be a vigorous institution; have a permanent office; and have its agencies and work mechanisms, including a mechanism to follow up on its resolutions. Pending the materialization of these hopes, Egypt, which was instrumental in calling for this summit, has been asked to follow up on the implementation of the Arab summit resolutions.

[Salim] At any rate, we must be optimistic about the results of this summit, which came about after six years of Arab inertia and spelled out firm stands under critical circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

[Quray'] Thank you. You are most welcome.

Palestinian Affairs: Paper Says Arab Summit Extended Olive Branch to Israel

TA2406172196 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Jun 96 p 13

[Editorial: "The Ball Is Again in the Israeli Court"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Undoubtedly, the emphasis in the final communique issued by the Arab summit, which completed its work in Cairo yesterday, on the need to continue the peace process and the appeal to Israel to resume the negotiations on the basis of the principles and foundations agreed upon since the Madrid Conference — primarily the principle of land for peace — reaffirm that the Arab side is still extending an olive branch in an attempt to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Moreover, the Arab side largely responded to the call to give the new Israeli Government a chance to prove its commitment to the peace process despite the hard-line political program it has presented.

The question now, after the Arab side offered all that it can to save the peace process, is this: What are the next steps needed to resume the negotiations after the Arab summit threw the ball back into the Israeli court? And how is it possible to ensure that the talks will proceed according to the agreed on foundations and principles without getting caught up in the cycles of procrastination and foot-dragging and in view of the huge gap between the Israeli Government's declared positions and the dues that must be paid in order to advance toward a just and comprehensive peace?

It is clearly logical for the Arab side to expect the United States, the major sponsor of the peace process, to undertake a serious and active move aimed at the Israeli Government in order to guarantee Israel's commitment to the pledges and agreements it signed as a prelude to moving forward, especially in view of the fact that the United States called on the Arab summit to give a chance to the Israeli Government and that Washington reiterated its commitment to advancing the peace process.

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At the same time, the moves of the EU countries on the basis of the clear and explicit position on the Middle East which they expressed at their recent summit in Florence two days ago, as well as the moves of all the countries interested in this region's security and stability, especially Russia, the sponsor of the peace process, and Japan, also constitute an important element in pressing toward the resumption of the negotiations and ensuring that the peace process will continue in the right direction.

In brief, there is still a chance to save the peace process and proceed toward new horizons. This will depend primarily on whether the Israeli Government adopts the necessary decision if it is really interested in achieving a just and comprehensive peace or remains captive to past statements and positions which have proven to lead only to tension and escalation. Moreover, this will also depend on not wasting the current opportunity, which is based on the serious move of the cosponsors and the international forces that are keen on the success of the peace process.

Palestinian Affairs: Summit Part of 'March of Arab Reconciliation'

MM2406161396 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Jun 96 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "A Summit Preparing for Reconciliation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fact that an Arab summit has been held in Cairo for the first time in five years and the summit's adoption of such resolutions against Israeli extremism is confirmation that this nation has not died and still has some shame.

After the severe splits that occurred during the second Gulf war, the Arab leaders' meeting means that the veto imposed by the United States and all its allies has collapsed, if only temporarily, and that the march of Arab reconciliation has moved a major step forward.

True, Iraq was excluded — and that is tantamount to a sin — but gradual progress remains a realistic approach, given the current difficult circumstances.

It is a return — albeit slow — to fixed Arab principles, and thus everyone is obligated to overlook some of the shortcomings in the hope that the march will continue to move in the right direction and all the gaps resulting from the Israeli infiltration attempts and U.S. pressures will be filled.

Credit should go to Egypt for its substantial and positive role in making this achievement and laying the foundations for a unified Arab front to confront Israeli arrogance and resist the U.S. hegemony over the region and its attempts to fragment the Arabs, keep every state preoccupied with its own minor issues, and turn the Arabs against Palestine and the Palestinians, so that they have no central issue around which to rally.

We see the reconciliation as being not between Yemen and Kuwait, or between Kuwait and Jordan, but between President al-Asad and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and between the two of them and King Husayn of Jordan. Because their meeting, thanks to Egyptian efforts, is the start of coordination in the face of Israeli settlement and a prelude to a more comprehensive Arab reconciliation that will return Iraq to the Arab ranks.

The Israelis' decision to opt for a war government requires an adequate Arab response that consolidates independent decisionmaking. It also requires a margin for free movement that pays no attention to U.S. pressures and warnings. This response was declared in the resolutions, which linked normalization to progress in the peace process and stressed that a settlement not based on a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital would be incomplete and unacceptable and would moreover lead to war and instability in the region.

It is a good start which should be maintained. Who would have expected Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's plane to land at Cairo Airport and then return to Tripoli normally, in a blatant violation of the unjust U.S. air blockade? Who would have expected the barrier of hostility between Presidents Husni Mubarak and 'Umar al-Bashir to be broken? Who would have dreamed of an Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi rebellion against U.S. warnings, tantamount to threats, that they must not talk about or even utter the phrase suspension of normalization.

We have always warned against the absence of the Egyptian role and Israel's attempt to cancel it and to infiltrate into the region via the fringes. Perhaps this summit is the beginning of an Egyptian awakening more than it is an Arab awakening, because every normalization step that Israel makes in the region means a step backward for the Egyptian role and a loss for all Arabs.

The Arabs are still in possession of numerous strong cards which they can use to impose their will and recover their rights.

If four suicide operations carried out by martyrs in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Ashqelon have toppled the Labor government under Shim'on Peres, four or 10 more operations are capable of toppling Netanyahu or any other Israeli leader who deviates from the peace

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process or refuses to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

The Arab disputes began in Egypt at the 1990 summit, and it is from the Cairo summit that the march begins toward reconciliation and reunion. We hope that our optimism is justified.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Spokesman Comments on Cairo Summit Resolutions

NC2406195596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, by 'Isam Hasan; date and place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Mr. Ghawshah, the Cairo Arab summit has issued resolutions that have been described by some people as positive while others consider them less than what one would hope for. How does Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] view these resolutions?

[Ghawshah] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Cairo summit was the first such meeting in six years. The last summit was held in 1990. Therefore we can say that if this meeting had some positive points, these can be summarized as follows:

First of all, the Arab leaders met together following a very difficult period of Arab disintegration and surrender. Doubtless the mere fact of the meeting was a positive thing.

Secondly, those who now read the resolutions and examine them carefully can see that they have risen to a higher level than the level the Arabs used when the Israeli Labor Party under Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres was in power. Some issues have been brought to the fore more strongly, but this does not mean they have been emphasized enough to meet the standards of the Islamic movements, Islamic nations, and Islamic countries. The resolutions are not at the point of regarding all of Palestine, from the sea to the river, as Arab, Islamic territory.

However, the standards at the Cairo summit were higher than earlier ones. For example, there was a clear call for Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. Raising the issue of East Jerusalem in this way showed progress over the Arab positions of the past four years, which used to refer to Jerusalem merely as a city with holy shrines. This is an achievement. Consider this too: Formerly the Israeli settlements were considered, even by the Palestinian Authority, as mere obstacles to peace. But the Cairo summit demanded that these settlements be dismantled. It can also be said that the Cairo summit placed the ball in Netanyahu's court by declaring that the Arab countries will take steps toward Israel to the same degree that the Zionist prime minister implements the land-for-peace principle. Additionally, the summit declared that if this does not happen, the Zionists will be held responsible for any new regional tension.

This is a summary of our analysis of the Cairo Arab summit resolutions. We are keeping in mind that, as I said before, the position of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, is to cling to all of Palestine, from the sea to the river, and all of Jerusalem, both its western and eastern sectors.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Official Denies Offering Israel Temporary Truce

TA2406144696 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic 21 Jun 96 pp 1, 18

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, QUDS PRESS — An official Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman has denied that the movement proposed a temporary truce to new Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in return for the latter's halt to armed operations against Hamas, release of prisoners, and adherence to the commitment to evacuate Hebron in accordance with the agreement signed between Israel and the PLO.

Mustafa al-Liddawi, the Hamas representative in Lebanon, said to QUDS PRESS that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, to whom this proposal was attributed, did not issue any statement in this regard. He added that the statement carried by certain news media "was fabricated and baseless."

A statement issued in the Gaza Strip in the name of the al-Qassam Brigades proposed a truce to the new Israeli Government, but Hamas sources in Gaza denied any link to this statement.

On the other hand, al-Liddawi expressed the belief that the months ahead may witness noticeable activity against the Israeli occupation forces. In response to a question, he said former PLO military cells and armed men from the Islamic movements are coordinating on launching attacks against settlers in the Palestinian territories.

Palestinian Affairs: Orient House Meeting To Switch to New Location

TA2406150496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed political sources have said that the meeting slated to be held this evening at

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Orient House in East Jerusalem in the presence of Palestinian figures and representatives of nongovernmental international organizations has been canceled. The meeting is to be held at another location in the territories.

Sources in the Israeli prime minister's bureau expressed their satisfaction at the fact that the meeting will not be held at Orient House, as this would have contravened the agreements signed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Palestinian Affairs: Editorial Criticizes Netanyahu Settlement Policy

TA2406151996 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 21 Jun 96 p 4

[Editorial: "Absurd Peace Proposal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the past two weeks, several voices, especially that of U.S. Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, have called upon the Arab world to be patient and to give the new Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu the chance to come through as a peacemaker.

This week, Netanyahu officially declared his program. The Palestinians were shocked by its content; yet the Arab world appeared still inclined to heed the call from the U.S. and to allow time for Netanyahu to prove his worth as a leader. They are waiting to see what he has to offer beyond the highly provocative electoral slogans he has made to his constituents.

How realistic is this approach? A week ago, it was perhaps possible to give Netanyahu the benefit of the doubt. But now that we have all heard what the Netanyahu program consists of, and it is every bit as provocative as the slogans, we must ask ourselves the essential question: what is the price of peace to be?

If the new Israeli government is determined to gobble up the rest of the Palestinian lands, preventing thereby a Palestinian entity from taking shape, what hopes can there possibly be for a peaceful solution? The Israeli government expects a free hand in fulfilling its plan for settlement expansion. Are we to remain silent before this, merely to ensure the continuation of the peace process, as though the process itself were the supreme end? Netanyahu's pledge to expand settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian lands is a frontal assault on the peace process. It violates UN Resolution 242. It negates the Oslo Accords.

The future of settlement activity is not subject to any negotiation, and never was. Indeed, one of the main reasons why the Palestinians agreed to sign the Oslo Accords is that, embedded in the agreement, is the Israeli pledge to freeze settlement activity. It was a pledge made to the cosponsor of the peace process, the United States. It was a promise which, before the eyes of the international community, Israel is obliged to keep.

It is no secret that Netanyahu is challenging this understanding in order to prevent the Palestinians from establishing a state. But Netanyahu is behaving absurdly. The equation on which the peace process hinges remains land for peace. It is a formula that Netanyahu must learn to respect. Holding to heady electoral promises and clinging to a plan, inimical to peace both in letter and spirit, is a dangerous choice to make. Netanyahu's formula of peace for the sake of peace would be merely risible, if it did not at the same time threaten to cause the collapse of the peace process, and to plunge the Middle East back into a cycle of violence.

Palestinian Affairs: Committee To Be Set Up With Israel on Rachel's Tomb

JN2106174396 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed to form a bilateral technical committee in a bid to reach a joint formula concerning the Israeli violations in the Rachel Tomb area and the bypass road around Abu Ghunaym mountain, through which the Israeli side wants to isolate occupied Jerusalem from the Palestinian territories.

The two sides agreed to stop bulldozing land to the north of Bethlehem and stop construction in the Rachel Tomb area.

These agreements were reached at a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in occupied Jerusalem last night.

In a statement to our radio at noon today, Major General Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, head of the Higher Security Committee, said the joint security committee will meet early next week to present its report to a Palestinian-Israeli meeting that will be held later.

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Algeria

Algeria: President Zeroual 'Very Satisfied' With Cairo Arab Summit

LD2306211596 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At the VIP Lounge [in Algiers Airport] President Liamine Zeroual [today] made the following statement to the media in which he assessed the proceedings and outcome of the Arab summit:

[Begin Zeroual recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As I said, I have participated in the Arab summit, hosted by sisterly Egypt. As everybody knows, Algeria has constantly called for the need for Arab reconciliation and bringing the Arab ranks together to confront current challenges.

I am very satisfied with the outcome of this summit. It enabled us, along with our brother leaders of Arab countries, to assess the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly the peace process. This summit also enabled us to come out with unified positions that ensure and, God willing, will ensure the higher interests of the Arab nation. It enabled all of us to stand by our brothers the Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese, as well as to highlight the need to continue the peace process within the framework defined at the Madrid Summit, which call for the implementation of all the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and adherence to the land-for-peace principle.

During this summit, Algeria was also able to strongly reaffirm anew the need to achieve comprehensive Arab reconciliation without exemption. We also affirmed the need to strengthen the role of the Arab League so that it could really become an ideal framework for Arab consultation and cooperation.

Naturally, alongside all these activities at the summit and since my arrival, I have also made many contacts with my brothers, the leaders of the Arab countries. All these contacts focused on the means of enhancing bilateral relations and exchange of views on issues of common interest. Thank you. [end recording]

Algeria: Prime Minister Receives Bosnian Deputy Foreign Minister

LD2306110596 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia, received Hasan Darvisbegovic, Bosnia-Herzegovina deputy foreign affairs minister, who delivered a message from Hasan Muratovic, the Bosnian prime minister.

The meeting took place in the presence of Mr. Tidjani Salaouandji, the minister of state to the foreign minister in charge of the Algerian community abroad.

Algeria: Minister Merani Sets Up Council To Fight Islamists

LD2406213796 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of specialized institutions are to be set up to preserve Islam from all types of manipulation. That is what Religious Affairs Minister Ahmed Merani announced last night to more than 300 imams and men of the cloth in Ghardaia. He said: We will have to serve Islam rather than subjugate it. A high council of religious dignitaries will be set up. It will be the point of reference for the interpretation of the tenets of the Koran. Ahmed Merani said the council will make it possible to ostracize criminal groups that use the Fatwa as they will, without having anything to do with the real values of Islam.

Algeria: Haddam—FIS Will Demand Regime, GIA Leaders Stand Trial

MM2406150696 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jun 96 p 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil in London: "Haddam tells AL-HAYAH: We Will Demand That Algerian Generals and the [Armed Islamic] Group's Amir Stand Trial"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone interview with AL-HAYAH, Anouar Haddam, head of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Parliamentary Mission, said that the FIS will demand that a number of military leaders and Djemal Zitouni (Abou Abderrahmane Amin), the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] amir, stand trial in Algeria.

Here is the text of the interview:

Asked about the FIS position on the national conference expected to take place soon, he answered: "The FIS' position on the military regime has not changed. Everything that the regime does on its own is unconstitutional, and therefore there is no point in directly responding to its actions. There is the feeling that, after failing to gain its legitimacy from the majority of the people, the regime is now trying to gain it through the opposition of the legitimate parties which oppose it. For example, it is said that if a legitimate opposition exists in Algeria, this means that there is a legitimate regime in the country. However, this is not true.

"There are two main points which have perhaps been overlooked by Western political circles: They say that their support for the putschist regime, after the 1992

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coup, was because they feared the collapse of the state's central authorities.

"We would first answer that by asking, who are the central authorities, how did they reach power, and why did they remain in power? Because of these authorities, there were 70,000 victims in Algeria, according to our statistics, and 200,000 victims according to independent statistics. What about human rights and what about respect for these rights? Is support for the central authorities achieved by oppressing the people?

"Secondly, they are saying that the current regime does not pose a threat to international policy and is not against the new world order. Our answer is that these are short-term calculations based on a wager on the army. However, long-term stability should be based on the respect for the people's opinion. In this context, the FIS will pursue its demands for a comprehensive change within the military establishment."

[Al-Tawil] Who [specifically] do you mean by that?

[Haddam] It has become necessary to specify the names of the heads of this establishment who should be changed, because they are war criminals. When the people regain their rights, the FIS will demand that the following stand trial as war criminals: (Generals) Khaled Nizar and Larbi Belkheir, Mohamed Touati, Mohamed Lamari, Said Lamari, Taoufik Mediene, Mohamed Betchine, and (President) Liamine Zeroual. Since his coming to power, killings and crimes against the people have increased.

The FIS will not only demand that these generals stand trial, but will also demand that the criminal Djemal Zitouni (the GIA amir) and his fellow criminals be tried. We want the extremists from both sides to stand trial.

[Al-Tawil] How do you view the Western position supporting Algeria?

[Haddam] We would like to tell them that we cannot understand the position of these states and how they can support this clique which, before, claimed to be socialist, and is now saying that it is fighting extremists. We would say to them that the people did not vote against them in the 1991 elections, but instead voted to regain their rights and status among nations. We urge that the National Covenant parties be allowed to express the people's view. The Covenant deserves support and a positive response....

[Al-Tawil] What are your views on splits within the GIA?

[Haddam] One should be specific when asking such questions. The GIA, which we believed embodied the people's hope and which was formed on 13 May 1994, no longer exists. Its leadership has been seized by a terrorist organization which we call the slaughterers. This is no longer an Islamic group and it has broken away from the true mujahidin.

Algeria: 30 People on Trial for Murder of Former Premier Merbah

LD2406202296 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, around 30 people have appeared before a criminal court in Tizi Ouzou, accused of being involved in the assassination of Former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah.

Kasdi Merbah, his brother, and his driver were killed in August 1993 during an ambush 20 kms east of Algiers.

Furthermore, the minister of religious affairs has announced that Islamic councils will be set up in the near future, whose role will be to protect religion from all types of manipulation, which is a way of controlling Islam.

Algeria: Car Bomb in Blida Kills at Least 7 People

LD2206195996 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, there has been another bomb attack this evening. A car bomb exploded in Blida killing at least seven people, according to first reports.

Egypt

Egypt: Musa Sees 'Positive Things' in Netanyahu Remarks

BR2506104796 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 25 Jun 96 p 13

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Alberto Stabile in Cairo; date not given: "Netanyahu Cannot Destroy Peace" — first paragraph is LA REPUBBLICA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who succeeded in bringing 21 Arab countries together without the usual disputes breaking out, has the gift of moderation. During the three-day summit he constantly tried to show that the Arab countries were not organizing another crusade against Israel. But according to the Israeli prime minister, the final resolution does not help the dialogue, because "it dictates preconditions" and undermines "Israel's security."

[Stabile] Is this true, Minister?

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[Musa] Not at all. I think Netanyahu's was a hasty response that fails to take account of the basic substance of our document. Nevertheless, I do see some positive things in what he said, such as when he says that peace is a strategic option for Israel, too. Very good. These are good words, but we want them to be put into practice. He cannot pretend to have been born yesterday. The peace process was under way, agreements had been signed, commitments had been implemented, and even the talks with the Syrians and the Lebanese constituted an emergent reality. This process proceeded from the Madrid Conference. Netanyahu must decide whether to go forward, but he cannot start over from scratch.

[Stabile] But it is this stance that Netanyahu deems unacceptable. Will you alter it?

[Musa] Definitely not. It is his approach, as set out in his draft program, the so-called guidelines, that is unacceptable to us. Let me give you an example. If the previous government agreed with the PLO to set the issue of Jerusalem on the negotiating table, we cannot agree to this being ignored or eliminated. The same applies to the refugees, the withdrawal from the West Bank, and the settlements. Can the Arabs agree to Jews from all over the world being brought to Israel, while Palestinian refugees are denied the right to return?

[Stabile] Do not tell me that Jordan and Syria welcome the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital...

[Musa] This is another matter. The Palestinians are entitled to establish their own state, to exercise self-determination, as our communique says. Syria and Jordan signed it, did not oppose it; nor could they have opposed it. This, because if the Palestinians cannot exercise their self-determination, no country in the Arab world, whatever its importance, can persuade the rest that peace is complete.

[Stabile] In view of what you have said so far, can you explain on what President Mubarak bases his optimism?

[Musa] On the confidence that Netanyahu will change his attitude.

[Stabile] My impression is that the Cairo document represents a step back in the condemnation of terrorism from the Sharm al-Shaykh document.

[Musa] What happened in Lebanon and Qana altered the entire picture. The results of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit were seriously harmed by what happened in Qana and Lebanon.

[Stabile] Secretary of State Christopher arrives in Israel today. Have you received any U.S. response to your summit?

[Musa] Not yet.

[Stabile] Do you think that Clinton will accept your viewpoint?

[Musa] I think so, because our communique is moderate and because we are calling for observance of the accords reached under U.S. leadership.

[Stabile] But now some people accuse the United States of supporting Israel excessively.

[Musa] I admit this is the prevalent feeling in the Middle East. Certainly the special relationship the United States maintains with Israel does not coincide with the relations it maintains with the Arab countries. Nevertheless the United States' role is very important in the region — but as an "honest broker" that does not concern itself solely with the Israelis' interests.

[Stabile] According to your document, the Arab countries also fear the Israeli-Turkish military agreement. On what specifically are these fears based?

[Musa] On the official statements of both Turkey and Israel. But I hope you observed that the Arab summit was courteous with Turkey, stressing more the positive aspects of our relations than their negative ones.

[Stabile] Do you not think that, following the Israeli-Turkish pact, a new balance has become established in the region?

[Musa] It will not survive. This happened 50 years ago, with the Baghdad pact. The Arab public respond negatively when they hear news of new strategic alliances; they do not accept them. This is not the way to preserve security and stability in the region. Security and stability must be protected by sitting round a table to see what we can all do together. But if two countries — non-Arab countries, moreover — proceed on their own account, the rest are entitled to think this alliance is directed against them; so the response will inevitably be a counter-alliance in order to defend themselves against an unnecessary provocation. I am not accusing Turkey of provocation, because I have visited that country and I had excellent meetings with its leaders, from President Demirel on down, and they all assured me that there is a normal cooperation agreement with Israel. If this is so, we have no reason to interfere in other countries' internal affairs, unless our security is involved.

[Stabile] Does the fact that Egypt is increasingly in tune with Syria point to a counter-alliance?

[Musa] We have worked hard, not only with Syria, but also with Saudi Arabia, and always within the Arab framework. But if you want to regard all this as a countermeasure, then by all means do so.

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[Stabile] For the first time in years, an Arab summit has ended in a unitary atmosphere. But it was only partial unity. Why was Iraq not invited? Is it not a member of the Arab League? And are Iraq's criticisms of the peace process any harsher than Sudan's?

[Musa] First, this meeting was organized not to establish Arab unity but to harmonize the various countries' stances within a framework of understanding and dialogue. This itself represents a huge step forward. Second, we succeeded in reaching agreement on a small number of things in common. But if Iraq had attended the summit, many Gulf countries would have excused themselves or we would have experienced a terrible atmosphere of diatribes, attacks, and disputes.

Egypt: Al-Baz Comments on Arab Summit's Accomplishments

NC2406144596 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has again denied that the Arab summit that concluded its work in Cairo yesterday was a reaction to the formation of the new Israeli Government. He explained that efforts to convene the summit started before the Israeli Government was formed.

In a televised interview on the "Good Morning Egypt" program al-Baz said that efforts to hold the summit started last spring and that bilateral and tripartite meetings and telephone contacts were held until the summit could be convened at this high level.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that some people thought that the summit was held to cope with new developments in Israel, the election of a Likud prime minister. But this is wrong, he stressed.

Al-Baz continued: There has been a feeling for the past two years that it has been too long since the Arabs held their last summit because of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and the repercussions this has had on the Arab nation.

Dr. al-Baz said in the interview that the world is experiencing successive developments. This prompted Arab leaders to get together and examine these developments, regardless of existing inter-Arab disputes.

He stressed the need to hold Arab summits as regularly as possible, noting that African states meet annually in the summer regardless of their disagreements and that the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Nonaligned Movement meet regularly.

The Egyptian official added that Arab summit meetings should be more effective. Even though meetings at the level of permanent delegates to the United Nations and the Arab League can be good for the Arab nation, it is summit meetings that give the greatest momentum, al-Baz remarked.

He pointed out that the numerous world changes of the past six years have paved the way for a new world order. It is unthinkable to exclude the Arab nation from all this, especially with major international blocs emerging in Europe, Asia, and North America, he said.

Analyzing the elements that contributed to the summit's success, Dr. Usamah al-Baz said the most important element was the participants' recognition of the importance of the items on the agenda and the need for the Arabs to take a unified stand reflecting their views on international developments.

He added that another element was the good and objective preparations. Had the summit been held in reaction to a specific event, it would not have achieved this kind of success, he said. He added that Arab leaders realized through their contact with the masses that there could be no effective Arab action unless the ranks were rallied.

He pointed out that President Mubarak made great efforts and held numerous contacts to rally the Arab ranks. These efforts to prepare the atmosphere psychologically and achieve the desired goals of the summit continued after the Arab delegations arrived, al-Baz said.

The under secretary said the summit succeeded because of Egypt's role, the importance of the items on the agenda, and the necessary challenge to the Arab nation to serve its own interests. Noting that the challenge still exists, he pointed out that there are regional challenges to find ways to give momentum to the peace process in light of the Israeli attitude, then we must assess what has actually been achieved.

Touching on the signs that prompt President Mubarak to remain optimistic about the peace process, Dr. al-Baz said that Israel has taken certain steps on the road to peace and can not stop. He pointed out that over 50 percent of the Israeli people voted for peace in the real sense of the word.

Commenting on President Mubarak's meeting with Sudanese President al-Bashir on the sidelines of the summit, Dr. Usamah al-Baz said the meeting was held because relations between Egypt and Sudan are unique and are the strongest among neighboring states. He remarked that Sudan and Egypt are linked by the Nile, the artery that brings people together and shapes their common culture and civilization. Egypt and Sudan are

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the gift of the Nile and their ties are very strong, al-Baz said. He added that the meeting opened the door to Sudan to show goodwill and change the policy it has pursued.

In conclusion, Dr. al-Baz said one of the major features characterizing the Arab summit was the consensus on the need to follow up on the implementation of the resolutions included in the final communique.

Egypt: Al-Baz Says Israeli Statements Undermine Peace Process

NC2506051696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has described recent Israeli statements about the Middle East peace process, which include the claim that negotiations with the Arab parties should resume without precondi. ns, as very serious statements. He explained that such remarks weaken the foundation on which the peace process was started in Madrid, undermine the principle of using international legality as a point of reference in the talks, and contradict the letter of invitation addressed to the Madrid conference held in 1991. He noted that the Arab parties agreed to enter into a peace process with Israel under the sponsorship of the United States and Russia and with the backing of the EU on the basis of that letter of invitation.

In a news conference he gave to members of the foreign Correspondents Society in Cairo this evening, Dr. al-Baz declared that Israel's claim that it wants to resume the negotiations without preconditions is "a play on words" because the peace process was based on clear foundations, namely land-for—peace; UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425; and the attainment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He pointed out that all the parties adhered to these commitments, and on their basis peace agreements were signed with Jordan and three agreements were signed with the Palestinian Authority.

Dr. al-Baz told the news conference that the statements by Israeli officials that certain issues are not negotiable contradict the agreement reached by all the parties at the Madrid conference. He pointed out that the Arab countries are giving the Israeli Government a period of eight weeks to clearly outline its policy on the peace process and that the Arab countries will then assess the policy of the new Israeli Government.

He asserted that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Cairo on Wednesday [26 June] will be very important because it will give Egyptian officials an opportunity to hear the explanations given to Christopher by the Israeli leaders.

Asked about the process of normalization of ties between some Arab Gulf countries and Israel, al-Baz replied: We will carry out a realistic study of the situation and if Israel persists in its policy, we will then have to reconsider our position. It is difficult to specify now what measures we will adopt, but this will depend on the policy the Israeli Government pursues and on its final stance on the issues, because all that it has announced so far has been merely a collection of "political statements."

Dr. al-Baz urged Israel to implement its agreements with the Palestinians, particularly the redeployment of forces in Hebron and further action on the areas designated "B" and "C" in line with the agreement signed by the two sides. He also urged it to begin negotiations with the Palestinians over the permanent status of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

He urged Israel to resume its negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, because such positions as nonwithdrawal from the Golan Heights and other Israeli no's uttered by Israel's leaders, are contrary to using international legality as a point of reference.

Dr. al-Baz remarked: We warn them not to persist in this attitude because this will force the Arabs to reconsider their position.

He added: No party can come out in the midst of the peace negotiations and unilaterally announce that it will not observe its commitments. In this way we will achieve nothing. Dr. al-Baz asserted that the Arab countries will not accept any alterations in the agreements reached in 1991. In this connection, he praised the statement issued by the EU at the conclusion of its Florence summit, which reemphasized the foundations on which the Madrid peace process was established.

Dr. al-Baz told the correspondents: We are waiting for Wednesday when Warren Christopher will submit a report on the current situation and what is going on in the minds of the new Israeli Government. He added: We want to hear this from Christopher after he meets with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. We want to learn what the Israeli Government's intentions are about the points I have mentioned.

It should be noted that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Israel today and will visit Cairo on Wednesday, where he will meet with President Husni Mubarak and his aides.

Regarding the Arab summit conference, Dr. al-Baz asserted that the summit's results were very positive be-

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cause they restored Arab solidarity and revived collective Arab action, something which will not harm any party but will indeed strengthen the peace process and revive peace moves. He remarked: Some people have said we are threatening Israel. This has not happened. We merely draw the Israeli Government's attention to the harmful consequences of not continuing the peace process or altering the principles on which the peace operation was founded.

Dr. al-Baz added that all the Arab countries have restated their adherence to peace as a strategic goal and a moral commitment, not as a tactical choice. This was reiterated in the opening and closing speeches by President Husni Mubarak during the summit, Dr. al-Baz said.

He noted that Israel's departure from this course would demonstrate that it has seriously breached its commitments. He added: We expect Israel to be more vigilant concerning the future, because we have a golden opportunity to build a Middle East where peace will prevail.

As for the Israeli-Turkish military agreement, Dr. al-Baz said the timing of this agreement might raise questions about the objective of such agreements, particularly since we have no accurate information about their spheres of cooperation. And we are in no position to judge whether this cooperation might harm the Arab countries and damage Arab interests, specifically Syria and Iraq, Turkey's close neighbors.

In his news conference, Dr. al-Baz said: We want to investigate the issue without antagonizing Turkey or Israel, because we always build our stance on a rational basis. We want to investigate the issue due to the sensitivity triggered by the timing of this agreement; we believe the military cooperation currently being conducted with Israel comes within the multilateral negotiations and through the committee in charge of security and arms limitation, Dr. al-Baz added.

He said: We are waiting for the information about this agreement out of our relationship with our friends, the Turks, and out of our desire to know the situation concerning Israel. He said that Turkey, Iran, and Israel are three non-Arab countries in the Middle East. So, while establishing a new Middle East, we must build good relations with these countries. We cannot ignore their presence; we must have good cooperation with them.

Continuing, Dr. al-Baz said that Israel does not want to end the dispute with the Arab side. But a peace agreement might guarantee Israeli security.

As far as Iran is concerned, Dr. al-Baz said it wants to interfere in the domestic affairs of the neighboring Gulf countries. Iran wants to impose its hegemony on these countries by exporting the revolution and staging attempts to carry out terrorist operations, as happened in Bahrain and with its occupation of the United Arab Emirates' three islands. He restated that Iran's claim about the unity of the Islamic nation is just an excuse to interfere in the Gulf countries' internal affairs. We cannot accept such a claim.

As regards Turkey, we believe the dispute between Turkey and Syria and Iraq could be resolved, because we believe their common interests are bigger than the dispute, Dr. al-Baz said.

He added that the Arab countries have no objection to coexisting and cooperating with these non-Arab countries in the Middle East, adding that he does not place all three countries in the one basket.

Dr. al-Baz described the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir as a first step because it represents the first meeting between the two presidents following the deterioration in bilateral relations. He noted that this meeting has paved the way for meetings among officials. He said the two presidents exchanged views in an atmosphere in which amity and frankness prevailed. The two presidents agreed on the need to promote relations between the two fraternal countries in accordance with the prerequisites of any agreements in the service of the two countries' interests. This is because Sudan, as far as Egypt is concerned, has a special position and it is important that the two countries should have good relations, Dr. al-Baz said.

Asked whether there is a security agreement between Egypt and Sudan, Dr. al-Baz said: We have not yet reached an agreement like this. Issues are still being studied and when we reach any agreement we will announce it. Dr. al-Baz stressed that some progress has been made in relations with Sudan. This could be interpreted as an achievement, but not an agreement, Dr. al-Baz added.

Egypt: Al-Baz on Relations With Sudan, Iraq, Israel

NC2506102896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has again stressed Egypt's permanent concern over Sudan's regional unity, territorial safety, and continuing existence as a united entity, north and south.

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In a lecture at al-Jazirah Sports Club in Cairo last night Dr. al-Baz asked the brothers in Sudan to prove their good intentions through actions. He said: We do not judge the policies of the existing regime in Sudan through its intentions, but through its actions and policies.

He noted that because of the complete honesty between the Egyptian and Sudanese sides during the Cairo summit, the Egyptian side placed Sudan before its responsibilities. The Sudanese side expressed its readiness to rectify its policies toward Egypt and deal seriously with Egypt's demands from Sudan. He said the issue of whether to invite Sudan to the Arab summit was left to the Egyptian Administration. It decided to let positive factors triumph and invited Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir to attend.

Dr. al-Baz spoke about the Iraqi issue and the circumstances that prevented Iraq from being invited to attend the Cairo summit. He said that dealing with Iraq under the current ruling regime has constituted a thorny problem in Egypt's efforts to unite the Arab rank during the past two years. But we have not closed the door before Iraq, he said: We have left it open.

Al-Baz clarified that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait caused a dangerous shift in Arab political thinking. For the first time an Arab country saw the direct source of the threat to its national security coming from another Arab country. In this regard he pointed to the crisis of the absence of confidence among the Gulf countries in Iraq's intentions under its current regime. Iraq's acceptance of Security Council resolutions "does not prevent the same thing from happening again; this is what the Arabian Gulf countries believe."

Al-Baz noted Egypt's desire to preserve the unity and safety of Iraq's territory as well as its regional unity, because that is linked with Egyptian and Arab national security and because any regional changes on the Middle East map will threaten the broader understanding of national security.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz said he believes that the mechanism for following up on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations issued by Arab summits is among the important points distinguishing the Cairo summit.

He said the most important thing the summit did was to place Israel before its responsibilities toward peace as a strategic option, which the Arabs have chosen, not a tactical action, as some want to depict it.

The summit has placed the entire international community before its responsibilities toward the peaceful settlement process in the Middle East. In this regard al-Baz praised the statement issued by the European Union summit in Florence revealing a great deal of similarity in European and Arab viewpoints on the peaceful settlement process.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz stressed that Egypt does not deal with ruling parties in Israel. Egypt only deals with governments with legal responsibilities that honor all the commitments made by previous governments regardless of the affiliation of the party that was in power, al-Baz added.

Dr. al-Baz maintained that what Israel is presenting now runs counter to the basis on which the peaceful settlement was founded. He added that it is unacceptable for the Israeli Government led by Binyamin Netanyahu to demand a new Madrid conference. He said Israel is also presenting other proposals that are not commensurate with logic.

Continuing, Dr. al-Baz said: When Netanyahu mentions security for peace, instead of land for peace, he is actually shifting the balance, because only peace can guarantee security—as long as it is a just and comprehensive peace.

Dr. al-Baz said Egypt wants to promote the concept of comprehensive Arab national security as well as its integrated military, political, economic, and environmental dimensions. Egypt wishes to do so out of its understanding of the interaction between Egyptian national security and pan-Arab national security.

Touching on the scope of joint Arab action, al-Baz pointed to the importance of promoting inter-Arab trade, which does not exceed 8 percent of Arab foreign trade. This could be done by increasing the inter-Arab trade exchange, focusing on the Arabs' competitive economic and production elements, and on activating the role of Arab establishments in the field of trade preparatory to setting up a free Arab trade zone.

Dr. al-Baz added that the Arabs have no alternative, but to set up an economic grouping at a time when the gigantic economic entities have become the winners. He said that Africa is vital to the Arab world. The Arabs can also benefit from the Asian expertise and development experiment, Dr. al-Baz said. He noted that the European Union [EU] is one of the advanced entities with common interests with the Arabs. Hence the Arabs must be open to the EU.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz said the 22-23 June Arab summit in Cairo was somewhat successful in reuniting the Arabs. This was clear in the points declared by the Arab leaders at the end of the summit and through the bilateral meetings held on the sidelines. This made the Arab public and the public beyond divert their attention from the points of disputes among the Arab regimes to the

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positive points that have started to surface in the Arab arena.

Dr. al-Baz said Egypt's leading role in the Arab world is natural, due to Egypt's weight, culture, and people. He said Egypt is not playing this role for the sake of hegemony or leadership. Egypt tries to promote the concept and dimensions of comprehensive Arab national security, Dr. al-Baz added.

Egypt: Ambassador to Israel Comments on Netanyahu's 'Reassurances'

MM2506094896 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 23-29 Jun 96 p 19

[Interview with Egyptian Ambassador in Israel Muhammad Basyuni, by Ashraf al-'Ashri in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-'Ashri] What course will Egyptian diplomacy follow in its dealings with Israel?

[Basyuni] The form and content of Egypt's policy on its dealings with the new Likud government are currently being worked out. During my meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa I discussed many of the basics of these approaches. We made the necessary assessment, discussed all eventualities and prospects, and examined several options. However, it would be premature to announce anything in this context before a thorough review of the Netanyahu government's plan and strategies. Our current position is to observe and follow a wait-and-see policy. We should not hurry, and we should wait some time to see what happens.

[Al-'Ashri] Do you expect relations with Israel under Netanyahu to remain on the same level as relations with the Labor Party?

[Basyuni] Whether the peace and our relations with Israel progress or cool down depends on what the Israeli side does. During my first meeting with Netanyahu, immediately after the announcement of his victory, he stressed Israel's commitment to its relations and the agreements ratified with Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, and others. He gave me reassurances which differed greatly from most of his views and Likud's positions during the elections campaign. Netanyahu told me he will try to honor all commitments and agreements ratified will all Arab states, and that he will try to achieve some progress in the peace process while in power in Israel. As far as we are concerned, so far, we have no comments to make. At this stage, our main concern is that actions precede words and should be put into practice in the near future.

[Al-'Ashri] In view of the fact that Likud is now heading the Israeli Government, what will Egypt's position be on the current disputes such as the killing of the POW's and the nuclear weapons issue? Do you expect these issues to be raised and acceptable solutions to be reached, or will they be postponed for some time?

[Basyuni] Egyptian demands with regard to the issues that you mentioned will remain the subject of a dialogue and direct contacts with Israel, whether it is Likud or Labor that is in power. We will strongly adhere to these basic demands with the same pressure and determination we used during the time of Rabin and Peres. We will not give up on our demand that the killers of the Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars stand trial. We will demand appropriate compensation, and will also demand that Israel join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. These hot issues will be raised with Likud when the Egyptian leadership decides that the time is right to do so.

Egypt: 'Arafat To Meet With Christopher 26 Jun

NC2506131596 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrives in Cairo on 26 June. During his visit he will meet President Husni Mubarak. Stating this, Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah added that 'Arafat will also meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to discuss ways to propel the talks on the Palestinian track, the Israeli withdrawal from Hebron, and resume the final stage negotiations. He said 'Arafat will ask Christopher to urge Israel to honor its obligations to the peace process on all its tracks.

Egypt: Turkish Envoy Says No Reconsidering Agreement With Israel

NC2506060896 Cairo MENA in English 2236 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 24 (MENA)—The Turkish ambassador here tonight emphasised that the Turkish-Israeli military agreement does not target any Arab country and that his country has provided all clarifications to Egypt in this regard.

Turkey could not reconsider its agreement with Israel, as if it did, the action would be interpreted as if the accord had something against Arab countries, and this is not true, reasoned the top diplomat in exclusive statements to MENA.

Should clarifications turn out to be insufficient, we shall go on explaining our position, he said.

The Turkish ambassador denied that Israel had conducted military maneuvers with his country, clarifying

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that the war games were made by Turkey, that they were announced more than one year before, and that they were attended by military observers from all over the world, including Egyptian military observers.

The Turkish naval exercises were conducted in the Aegean Sea and east of the Mediterranean and were aimed at the military maneuvres conducted by Greece, and the Greek Cypriots, he clarified.

Under the Turkish-Israeli pact, Ankara has allowed Israeli warships to visit Turkish ports, a matter made by all states and has nothing to do with Syria, the Turkish ambassador said.

On Israeli President Ezer Weizman's statements in which he expressed dissatisfaction with the Islamic Refah Party's takeover of power in Turkey, the chief diplomat said Turkish officials did not welcome these remarks.

Weizman made the statements on board his plane and not during his visit to Turkey, he said.

Such statements could never affect or change the electoral rating in Turkey, he added.

Egypt: Interior Minister Says New 'Terrorist' Organization Seized

NC2506132696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi announced today that a new terrorist group has been seized in an operation he described as one of the greatest recent security successes of the State Security Intelligence Department.

Speaking after the graduation of a new group of police officers, al-Alfi said weapons and ammunition were seized in the possession of group members. He said all the members of the group were arrested in the operation, which began on Thursday [20 June].

He said all the details will be announced tomorrow at a news conference at the Interior Ministry. Group members will be named and their intentions and weaponry announced, he said.

On the meeting between President Mubarak and Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir and on whether there will be security cooperation to uncover terrorists in Sudan, the interior minister said there will be coordination and cooperation in the next few days. He pointed out that the Arab interior ministers conference drew up a security strategy to achieve Arab cooperation in this regard. We will move through this strategy, he said.

On terrorist actions in Bahrain and Libya, al-Alfi said there is coordination between Egypt and all the Arab countries to fight terrorism in all its forms. He said this is being done in accordance with the resolutions and strategies adopted by the Arab Interior Ministers Council. Since crime involves the whole world, he said, there must be international cooperation against international gangs, as these gangs are linked to each other.

Libya

Libya: Minister 'Surprised' at U.S. 'Unjustified Escalation'

MM2406102096 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jun 96 p 6

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy in Cairo: "Al-Fazzani Questions Washington's Intention To Impose Sanctions on Companies Dealing With Libya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary (minister) of the Libyan General People's Committee for Unity, criticized the U.S. Administration's intention to impose sanctions on foreign companies working in Libya and said: "We are surprised at this unjustified escalation which harms the interests of the Americans' European allies."

Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Congress [as published] approved a draft law imposing sanctions on foreign companies working with Libya to develop the oil industry.

On whether the Libyan-British dialogue could continue in the wake of the Manchester blast which was condemned by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, he [al-Fazzani] said: "the Libyan-British dialogue was not interrupted, and the British are more convinced that the Libyan position is sound."

He added: "Libya does not condone terrorizing peaceful civilians, and stopped supporting the IRA a long time ago, after it became involved in actions rejected by Libya." He stressed that his country condemns terrorism of any type and in any form.

Al-Fazzani held contacts with the Egyptian officials, on the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers' conference, to set the date of the Egyptian-Libyan Higher Committee's meeting. On the outcome of these contacts, he said: "The committee will soon meet in Tripoli."

Libya: 'Militants' Flee After Killing 8 Policemen in Attack

NC2306090296 Paris AFP in English 0848 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Sallum, Egypt, June 23 (AFP)—Eight Libyan policemen were killed in an attack

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by Muslim militants in the eastern region of Darnah, Libyans crossing the border into Egypt told AFP on Sunday [23 June].

"Libyan fundamentalists attacked a police training school in Darnah last Thursday, [20 June] leaving eight dead before fleeing into the mountainous region of Jabal al-Akhdar," 700 kilometers (420 miles) east of Tripoli, one traveller said.

"Libyan security services have fanned out in the region to hunt down the attackers and the coastal road from Tripoli to Benghazi was closed for several hours," he said.

Libya: More on Attack on Police Training Center

MM2406143496 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jun 96 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Libya: Reports of Murder of Eight Military Men Near Darnah" — quotemarks throughout are as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — Libyan eyewitnesses and oppositionists confirmed yesterday that gunmen had attacked a police training center near the Libyan coastal city of Darnah, killing eight military men before fleeing to the al-Jabal al-Akhdar area.

Leaders of Libyan opposition organizations told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that they had received reports saying that confrontations occurred around a police training center on the northern coastal road some six days ago."

Eyewitnesses say that a large force is surrounding the al-Jabal al-Akhdar area, to which the gunmen are believed to have fled. It is known for its rugged mountains It includes the cities of al-Bayda', Darnah, and al-Marj, and the al-'Ubaydat tribe has a substantial presence there.

The "Libyan Islamic Group" [al-jama'ah al-islamiyah al-libiyah] has distributed statements claiming responsibility for killing Libyan military men, while the authorities have admitted the occurrence of confrontations, saying that they were between security organs and drug traffickers.

Libyan oppositionists have declined to confirm the Islamic groups' [al-jama'at al-islamiyah] responsibility for recent incidents, pointing out that "the eastern region in Libya has been witnessing continued tension for some eight months as a result of worsening social and political conditions," saying that "the people's uprising in Libya in protest at the regime's practices will not stop."

No official comment has been issued by Tripoli about what has happened. A source close to the security organs just said, "the purge and antismuggling committees are working very effectively throughout Libya."

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Iraq: Official Assails Cairo Summit Final Communique

JN2406193196 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad today said that the Cairo Arab summit reflected an official Arab collusion with the United States and a regrettable acquiescence to it. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, chairman of the Arab and International Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, added that the final communique heaped immense rancor on Iraq, which has been under siege for approximately six years, in an official Arab collusion with the United States, arch leader of evil and terrorism in the world.

The Iraqi official, whose country was the only arab nation not invited to the Cairo summit, went on to say: The final communique reflected a regrettable submission to a party known for its malice, rancor, and subservience to the enemies of Arabism. The summit caused a rift in Arab ranks and did not promote the aspired pan-Arab solidarity.

Hammudi asserted that it is Iraq's security that is threatened. He said Iraq is a threat to nobody. The entire world is well aware that Washington and London are responsible for the continuation of the unfair embargo, which has been in place for the past six years, the Iraqi official maintained.

Iraq: Radio—U.S. 'Dictated' Iraq Resolution to Cairo Summiteers

JN2406202596 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Arabs: We said yesterday that the expanded, extraordinary, or incomplete summit was concluded without achieving the results it was called for to achieve. The declared reason for holding the summit was Netanyahu's election win in the Zionist entity, and specifically his election platform, conditions, and the supremacist discourse of Hertzl, founder of the Zionist movement who authored the Zionist dream, as Netanyahu described him. This dream envisages a Greater Israel extending from the Euphrates to the Nile. The reason for holding the summit was Netanyahu's election win. But, good heavens, Iraq became the reason for the summit.

So that we may not be misunderstood, let us review the final communique of the Cairo summit of 1996 and allow readers and listeners to make their own judgments. We, as Arab citizens, have the right to note certain observations we saw very clearly.

First, the Cairo summit of 1996 came as a continuation of the Cairo summit of 1990, which justified the aggression against Iraq per a draft Washington dictated to Cairo by telephone.

Second, the Cairo summit of 1996 addressed utterances to the United States before Netanyahu even though they are one and the same. It said that the summiteers represent all Arabs, and that life and the nation can go on without Iraq.

Third, the Cairo summit of 1996 came to implement a rescue operation in favor of the United States and its agents in the region after the world and 13 members of the UN Security Council acknowledged that Iraq fulfilled its obligations. How can Iraq be asked by the Arab summiteers to honor its commitments when they use trite and wornout phrases?.

The paragraph that asks Iraq to do so was drafted by the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. It was dictated to the summit so that the United States, who is embarrassed before its Western allies and partners, may address them saying: Look, I am not alone; the Arabs are also condemning Iraq.

Now, we reach the logical question: Does the Cairo summit of 1996 really represent the Arabs? In other words, are the Arab masses of the same opinion voiced by the summiteers? We are aware of the view of the Arab masses, who followed the news of the summit with great pain and anger. The Arab masses cannot envisage a successful summit without Iraq. Likewise, they cannot envisage a successful summit when the summiteers accept the dictates of the United States.

Iraq: UN's Ekeus Claims 'Breakthrough' in Uncovering Arms Program

NC2406154896 Paris AFP in English 1515 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Report by S.V. Venkatraman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Manama, June 23 (AFP) — UN envoy Rolf Ekeus returned to New York on Sunday [22 June] saying he won a "major breakthrough" with Iraq which surrendered new files on its illegal arms programs and pledged to grant total access to military bases.

Ekeus was sent to Baghdad on Wednesday [19 June] with a UN Security Council mandate to urge Iraq to lift a ban on inspections of Republican Guard bases suspected of harboring weapons material banned since the 1991 Gulf war.

"I believe that we have had a major breakthrough," Ekeus told reporters on arriving in Bahrain Saturday

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after four days of talks with Iraqi officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Iraq agreed to grant "immediate, complete and unconditional access" to all suspected weapons sites and submitted what it called "final documents" on its biological, chemical and missile programs, Ekeus said.

The UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons programs would still have to verify if the documents were final but Ekeus described them as "important."

Ekeus, who is UNSCOM chairman, said Iraq offered to submit a report by the end of June which "is expected to contain full, complete and final declaration on all its weapons programs."

He added it is possible Iraq might also furnish a report on its nuclear program.

The United Nations has rejected previous declarations which Iraq described as final.

Ekeus told the Arab newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT last week that Iraq was still a threat to the region because it was believed to have at least six ballistic missiles and their launchers.

The former Swedish diplomat travelled to Baghdad on Wednesday with Russian ballistic weapons expert Nikita Smidovich, whose team had been barred from entering five Republican Guard bases in and around Baghdad since June 11.

Last week Ekeus withdrew the 54-member team and no date has been given for its return to Baghdad.

Iraq said the sites were vital to its security, but Ekeus said he suspected they contained weapons material banned under UN disarmament resolutions.

"We have on our part guaranteed Iraq's right to sovereignty and territorial integrity," Ekeus stressed after reaching the agreement in Baghdad.

"We will be guided by the UN resolutions that take into account the legitimate security concerns," he said.

Iraq's deputy secretary of state for foreign affairs, Riyad al-Qaysi, said at a joint press conference with Ekeus in Baghdad on Saturday: "We have worked out in full agreement a joint program of action."

Ekeus said he would ask the UN Security Council in New York to endorse the agreement.

Both al-Qaysi and the UN envoy said they agreed to accelerate efforts to clear up questions about whether Baghdad has dismantled its banned weapons programs. [passage omitted]

Ekeus held three sets of talks in Baghdad with Oil Minister 'Amir Muhammad Rashid and two with 'Aziz before striking the deal on Saturday.

He said Iraq had agreed to unconditional inspections not only by UNSCOM but also the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Despite the agreement on inspections, the official Iraqi press fired hurled insults at Ekeus describing him as a tyrant and an agent for the United States.

Ekeus left Bahrain after midnight Saturday on a flight to New York, UN sources said.

Iraq, Special Commission Reach Agreement on Inspection

JN2406165496 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—A joint statement was issued this evening on the discussions between Tariq 'Aziz, [Iraqi] deputy prime minister, and Rolf Ekeus, executive chairman of the [UN] Special Commission, held in Baghdad on 19-22 June.

The statement says: The discussions between the deputy prime minister and the executive chairman of the Special Commission on 19-22 June resulted in the following statement, which the executive chairman will include in his report to the UN Security Council:

1. The Iraqi Government stresses its commitment to continue cooperating with the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in the implementation of its obligations under UN Security Council resolution 687 of 1991 and the other relevant resolutions. The Iraqi Government pledges to give them immediate, unconditional, and unrestricted access to all the positions the Special Commission or the IAEA wish to inspect. On the basis of the commitment of all UN members to Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence, the Special Commission pledges that it will carry out its mandate and exercise its rights under the relevant UN security Council resolutions by fully respecting Iraq's legitimate security concerns.

2. Iraq and the Special Commission agreed to intensify their work in order to enable the Special Commission to present to the Security Council as soon as possible a report explaining that Iraq honored its obligations according to section C of Resolution 687 of 1991 and as shown in Paragraph 22 of the said resolution. To this end, Iraq and the Special Commission also agreed to hold regular meetings on the political level in Baghdad every two months. The aim of these meetings is to focus attention on the major issues, review the progress of

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work, and exert any extra effort needed to achieve the said objective.

3. In order to conduct a dialogue with a future perspective, Iraq's deputy prime minister and the executive chairman of the Special Commission agreed on a joint action program.

Iraq: Iraqi Exiles Deny Receiving U.S. Aid To Overthrow Saddam

NC2406172696 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, June 24 (AFP) — An Iraqi opposition group based in Jordan denied, in a communique Monday, [24 June] that it had received financial aid from the United States to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The WASHINGTON POST reported Sunday [23 June] that U.S. President Bill Clinton authorised a six million dollar payment to the group, the Iraqi National Accord, in January to fund its activities.

But the group said in a statement: "The Iraqi National Accord knows nothing about aid from the U.S. Administration to Iraqi efforts to overthrow Saddam Husayn, as reported in the WASHINGTON POST."

However, it did not deny the newspaper's reports of links with the U.S. [Central] Intelligence Agency, the CIA.

"Our movement will not hesitate to meet any country or party, with the exception of Israel, if the objective of such meetings is to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people and increase the isolation of the dictatorial regime in power" in Baghdad, the statement said.

It said its strategy to oust Saddam "depends on the ranks of the army and the support of different sectors of society, Arab and regional support as well as international support, especially from the permanent members of the UN Security Council."

The POST said the group was plotting a coup by military leaders in the Iraqi president's entourage but that its chances of success were limited as the Iraqi opposition was divided.

Iraq: National Accord Spokesman Denies U.S. Aid for Radio Station

MM2506093996 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jun 96 p 4

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Iraqi Opposition Group Denies Receiving U.S. Financial Aid for Radio Station"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — An Amman-based Iraqi opposition group has denied that the United States financed a radio station transmitting to those inside Iraq within the framework of a plan to topple President Saddam Husayn's regime being implemented by the organization with support from the U.S. [Central] Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST said the day before yesterday that the Iraqi National Accord movement is seeking to carry out a military coup in Iraq, and that President Bill Clinton agreed in January to allocate $6 million to finance a powerful radio station for the Accord movement and its activities in Amman. The newspaper said that Arab quarters paid this sum.

However, Salah al-Shaykhali, the movement's spokesman in London, has denied that the United States supplied the movement with a radio station. He told AL-HAYAH: "We have no knowledge of what is happening in the U.S. Administration (as regards Iraq) or the money it allocates to the Iraqi opposition." He added that the Accord movement has "a plan to rescue Iraq which relies on the Armed Forces and the people's support against the regime. We are also seeking to win the support of the Arab brothers and international decisionmaking centers. This includes anyone who agrees to meet with us, including member states of the [UN] Security Council, such as the United States, Britain, Russia, and France. We have met with representatives of these states."

Al-Shaykhali stressed that his movement's radio station "transmits via satellites, and its programs are prepared in London and north Iraq. The booster station in Salah al-Din is no longer needed, now that the radio station is linked to satellites." [passage omitted]

Iraq: Jordanian Daily Notes INA's Denial of Receiving U.S. Aid

JN2506095896 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 25 Jun 96 p 16

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-ASWAQ — An Iraqi National Accord [INA] source asserted that THE WASHINGTON POST report, citing the movement and its Secretary General Iyad 'Allawi, reflects some misunderstanding and inaccuracy. The source added that the

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INA's determination and intention to effect a change in Iraq and to establish a democratic alternative are known to everybody. The source added that the movement made good and important progress in this direction through its continuous contacts with military, popular, and unionist forces inside Iraq, including elements in the ruling party and government.

The source noted that the INA, which is part of the Iraqi national movement, depends in its efforts to effect a change in Iraq on the fact that the change should be launched from inside Iraq through relying on the vanguards of the Iraqi Army and through the support of the various popular sectors, that this change should receive Arab and regional support, and that this change should also receive international support, particularly from the Security Council permanent member states.

The INA source revealed that his movement held contacts and meetings with prominent Iraqi opposition forces and major factions to achieve this, adding that the results were very fruitful. The source said that the meetings and contacts the INA held with the states and parties that are involved in the Iraqi file, were positive. Within this framework, the source said that many meetings were held between INA officials and the involved countries to exchange views on developments in the Iraqi issue and the need to expeditiously save the Iraqi people from the terrible suffering they are facing as a result of repression, dictatorship, and blockade. The source said the INA will not hesitate to meet any country or party, with the exception of Israel, if the objective of such meetings is to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people, increase the isolation of the dictatorial regime in power, and support the Iraqi people's causes of freedom, democracy, and a stable and secure life without encroaching on Iraq's sovereignty, territory, and people.

The INA source expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the Iraqi opposition forces and the INA for the understanding demonstrated by the Arab and international quarters toward the Iraqi cause, as well as their concern for the just struggle waged by the Iraqi people against the ruling dictatorial authority with the aim of setting up a pluralist democratic regime to guarantee the sovereignty of united Iraq, as well as the human rights and basic liberties of the Iraqi people.

Concluding his statement, the INA source said that the movement had interlinked and comprehensive plans to save Iraq from disaster and that it basically depended on our valiant Armed Forces and the support of various sectors of society, who are eager to topple the Saddam regime. Also, the source added, the INA undertook efforts to gain the support of the sisterly Arab countries and the centers of international decisionmaking in Europe and the United States. The INA said that the movement knows nothing about aid from the U.S. Administration for Iraqi efforts to overthrow Saddam Husayn, as reported in THE WASHINGTON POST.

Iraq: AL-JUMHURIYAH Cited on WASHINGTON POST Story

JN2506082196 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH strongly criticized U.S. President Bill Clinton's policy and insistence on continuing the scheme of terrorism to harm the Iraqi people.

In an article on U.S. President Bill Clinton's authorization of $6 million payment to an Amman-based group of Iraqi traitors, AL-JUMHURIYAH, published here today, said: Misery and failure have brought the United States to the point of relying on poodles, wolf dogs, and the Doberman.

THE WASHINGTON POST recently revealed that Clinton extended financial aid to a traitorous Iraqi group. It said that similar amounts were paid by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Arab countries to carry out acts of terrorism in Iraq.

THE WASHINGTON POST also revealed that a meeting of U.S., British, Jordanian, and Saudi intelligence men was held in Saudi Arabia in mid-January, during which it was decided to make Amman the headquarters for acts of sabotage and terrorism against the Iraqi people.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expressed no surprise at the U.S. policy toward Iraq and its continued support for terrorism to encroach on its sovereignty and national security. It said the $6 million is no more than a slight addition to the tens of billions that have been spent to no avail on conspiring against the Iraqi people and attempting to subjugate and terrorize them.

The newspaper advised U.S. President Clinton to deal with his own scandals and his country's problems and stop committing crimes in Iraq. It addressed him saying: You are aware that your predecessor Bush possessed a terrifying force which he used against Iraq, but he failed.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ridiculed the U.S. President's slogans of combating terrorism, and said Clinton's support for the traitors of Iraq constitutes terrorism by a superpower which pays money to treacherous mercenaries to commit aggression against innocent Iraqi citizens.

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The newspaper raised a question about the Arab League's position on the blatant U.S. interference in Iraq's internal affairs and Clinton's support for terrorism, contrary to his allegations of fighting terrorism. The Arab League's comment, after the communique issued by Cairo Summit of 1996, emphasized that one of the most important principles of Arab action is the Arab leaders' pledge to adhere to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of others.

Iraq: Al-Anbari To Leave for UN To Implement Oil-for-Food Deal

JN2406170196 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 24 Jun (INA)—Iraq will supply the UN General Secretariat, within the next few days, with a distribution plan in light of the 20 May Memorandum of Understanding on oil for food, medicine, and other basic needs.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, head of the Iraqi delegation to the talks that led to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, will present the distribution plan to Ambassador Chinmaya Gharekhan, senior political adviser to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali. Butrus-Ghali is on a tour abroad.

An INA correspondent in New York said that Shawqi Murqus, Health Ministry under secretary, would accompany Dr. al-Anbari to the UN headquarters. The visit is aimed at implementing the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Sanctions Committee is expected later this week to speed up measures to implement the Memorandum of Understanding by facilitating the process of exporting Iraqi oil and importing foodstuffs and medical and other necessary equipment.

Iraq: Unrest Reported in Religious Cities of Karbala', al-Najaf

NC2406150896 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The cities of Karbala' and al-Najaf have been the scene of bloody confrontations between the (?inhabitants) and the henchmen of the tyrant's regimes. The clashes then spread to the country's western and southern governorates.

According to newspaper reports, the regime tried to prevent (?visitors) from reaching the centers where the religious dignitaries reside in Karbala' and al-Najaf but its efforts failed and thousands of citizens descended on the two cities in clear defiance of the authorities.

The reports add that the visitors met with al-Najaf's religious ulema, and the regime found itself obliged to cut off water and electricity supplies and set up roadblocks [words indistinct]. The authorities also tried to insult the ulema whenever they went out [words indistinct].

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Israel: Likud's Landau 'Sorry' Christopher To Visit 'So Early'

TA2406151396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Knesset has voted for the Likud's Dan Tikhon to become the house speaker for the 14th Knesset. The Likud Knesset member [MK] who is due to become chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, 'Uzi Landau, says the visit to Israel by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher is coming too early and should have been postponed. On the various appointments today, reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Knesset Speaker Dan Tikhon says he will calm things down in the often stormy Israeli parliament. [passage omitted]

In the Likud-Gesher-Tzomet caucus, 'Uzi Landau won support to become the new chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Landau wants a beefed-up staff for the committee in light of the formation of a National Security Council in the Prime Minister's Office. [passage omitted]

Even, as you say, you have not officially been appointed or charged with the responsibility of the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, there is a lot of diplomatic activity going on. We have the Cairo summit, the Arab summit over the weekend, and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher is due in Israel tomorrow. What should the Israeli Government's message be to Secretary Christopher?

[Landau] I am sorry that the secretary of state came so early.

[Ze'ev] By the way, it is at Mr. Netanyahu's request that he is coming this early.

[Landau] Perhaps. I think it would be much better if we could have another couple of weeks in order to delineate properly all the characteristics and details of our future foreign affairs and defense policy and then meet the secretary of state. I also believe that a voyage to the United States would be a more fruitful one if it would not be by the end of this month but rather a number of weeks later than that.

[Ze'ev] Likud MK No'omi Blumenthal dropped her candidacy earlier today for the post of house speaker. Instead, she will chair the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee. She says Israeli society has proved itself not yet ready for a woman speaker. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Israel: Christopher To Receive 'General' Message, No Concrete Plans

TA2406151596 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives in Israel tomorrow and will meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The two will discuss Netanyahu's meeting with President Bill Clinton, and Christopher will try to determine Netanyahu's policies on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks. Our political correspondent reports prior to Christopher's visit:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Secretary Christopher, who will land here at dawn, is paying his first visit to Israel since the elections. He will meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu at noon tomorrow. Officially, the short trip has been called a preparatory visit for the Netanyahu-Clinton meeting at the White House in two weeks. In practice, the Americans want to find out where the new government is heading. They want to determine the link between remarks about a commitment to the peace process and others about not dictating to us and the demand for no preconditions. Israel's Ambassador in Washington Itamar Rabinovich was asked this morning whether he expects Christopher to pressure Netanyahu on political issues:

[Rabinovich] I think he is coming with questions. He wants to understand what the government's concrete policy is on the main issues in the peace process. There has not yet been a dialogue at a senior level between the new government and the U.S. Administration.

[Segal] Preparatory discussions on the Christopher visit concluded at the Prime Minister's Office about an hour ago. The participants, who apparently make up Netanyahu's close circle on political matters, were Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay, Foreign Minister David Levi, and Finance Minister Dan Meridor. The messages to be transmitted to Christopher will be general. A senior source told us that Netanyahu does not plan to present Christopher with his redeployment plan for Hebron or the plans for Orient House, and Christopher will apparently not ask for them. We must not forget that it is also a get-acquainted meeting.

[Rabinovich] Christopher knows the prime minister from a series of rather brief meetings, and both feel they need longer working sessions, as well as informal meetings, in order to form personal ties which are vital for diplomacy.

[Segal] Christopher will not exert pressure, but his visit will reveal to Netanyahu what Clinton expects of him. In that sense, the visit is the start of a new agenda in the

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Israeli-U.S. dialogue following the political turnabout in Israel. [end recording]

Israel: Letter to Christopher Urges U.S. Policy To 'Adapt Itself'

TA2506082196 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jun 96 p 2

[Open letter to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in a full-page paid ad issued by groups detailed below; names as transcribed]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] To Secretary of State Warren Christopher

Shalom and welcome to Israel.

As Secretary of State you have continued to foster the long standing friendship between the United States and Israel, for which we are forever grateful.

The bond between the two nations is unique. It is a close relationship based on similar interests, but most importantly on a commonality of values. Paramount among those values are the democratic tenets upon which our systems of government are founded. The will of the people is what matters to us both, what we respect.

When the people of Israel chose Benjamin Netanyahu they willed a change in national policy, they chose a different road to achieving the peace that everyone, without exception, desires.

When the people spoke they said:

1. **Yasir 'Arafat has not lived up to the agreements he signed.** He cannot be viewed as a strategic partner in peace. He has not seriously fought Palestinian terror, has not extradited known murderers, has not ceased his bellicose diatribes against Israel and the Jewish People, and for the "liberation" of Jerusalem. In the two and a half years since the Oslo I Agreement was signed the number of Israelis killed at the hands of Palestinian terrorists has more than doubled.

The people said, "Enough of a process that leads not to peace, but to death and destruction."

2. **Jerusalem is not negotiable.** In 1948 Israel agreed once to a divided Jerusalem, and it did not bring peace. It has been the eternal capital of the Jewish People for 3000 years. No nation would willfully tear apart the locus of its physical and spiritual life and neither must Israel. The Orient House and the other illegal satellites of the Palestinian Authority must be shut down and moved out of the capital.

The people said that, "no part of Jerusalem is on the table".

3. **The Golan Heights must remain in Israel's hands.** It is the "eyes" of the country and the source of 35 percent of Israel's water. With dictators such as Hafiz al-Asad only a functional peace of deterrence can be reached; negotiated formal deals with tyrants are meaningless.

The people said, "Peace with the Golan and because of the Golan."

4. **Jewish settlements in Yesha [Hebrew acronym for Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza] are not an obstacle to peace.** Jewish settlements are not obstacles to peace any more than Arab settlements are. On the contrary, they are "bridges to peace". The notion that peace can be achieved by uprooting Jews from their homes is unacceptable, is immoral. It is an extension of the long standing Arab myth that Israel is the cause of regional instability and only her destruction will bring peace. To sever our ties to Yesha, to negate our right to live there under Jewish sovereignty is to destroy the underpinnings of Zionism and our very right to Israel.

The people said that, "the state cannot be reduced to 9 miles wide", and that, "the Jewish communities of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza must flourish".

5. **Hebron.** Beginning with the origins of Judaism embodied in Abraham's message of One G-d, an unbroken chain of our earliest development as a people can be traced to Hebron. Second only to Jerusalem in her holiness, Hebron had a Jewish community which thrived continuously for over 3,000 years. The community was destroyed in 1929 in an Arab pogrom. The rebirth of Hebron's Jewish community is historically and morally just. Nothing should be done to compromise her security or ability to thrive and grow.

The people said, "There cannot be a promising future without respect for the past."

We are confident, Mr. Christopher, that American foreign policy will respect the will of the People of Israel. We were encouraged by your remarks on CBS's Face the Nation (June 2, 1996) when you said: "I think we'll have to adapt our policy to the current situation... circumstances do change and we'll move into dealing with this new Israeli administration wanting to have a good arrangement with them, wanting to have the same kind of close arrangement, close discussions, one of trust and confidence, that we had with the prior administration."

It is our hope and prayer that American policy will indeed adapt itself to the changed circumstances in Israel, maintain a relationship of trust and confidence with Mr. Netanyahu and his cabinet, and respect the will of the Israeli People.

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Respectfully yours,

Yesha Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza
One Israel Fund/Yesha Heartland Campaign.
National Council of Young Israel
Americans for a Safe Israel
Emunah of America
Jerusalem Reclamation Project
Maamatz
Women for Israel's Tomorrow
B'tzedek
Professors for a Strong Israel
Gamla Won't Fall Again
American Friends of Hebron
American Friends of Shilo
Coalition for Jewish Concerns - Amcha
Pro Israel

Israel: Levi on Cairo, Hebron, Christopher Visit, U.S. Trip

TA2406061996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondents Shlomo Raz and Yoram Ronen; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ronen] We would like to discuss the Cairo summit but, since we have just heard our army affairs correspondent's report on the Hebron redeployment, we would like to ask: Do you favor performing the redeployment, as stipulated in the Oslo accords, in the coming days?

[Levi] You will have to agree that such sensitive issues belong around the cabinet table and in the appropriate forums where, naturally, a decision will be made. We are examining every aspect of the situation and, once a decision is made, it will be published.

[Ronen] If this is the case, do you believe we could sum up the Cairo summit as you said last night, that peace is not attained with dictates? Could you say it may be unpleasant, but that it is not terrible and the results of the Cairo summit could be worse?

[Levi] We said, right from the start, that there is no room for such a convention to take place. For those who want peace, there are the frameworks that were determined, there is a process, there are rules, and there are negotiations about which Israel has and will make clear: We do not accept the approach of issuing dictates or determining the result of the negotiations before they end. This is against all the rules. This is why the desire should be mutual. Israel wants peace; it is our policy value, and is at the basis of the government guidelines. Israel will work for its attainment while, naturally, determinately defending its essential interests.

[Raz] Mr. Levi, I heard people involved with the political process say that your remarks on the peace process are mainly addressed at the Palestinians, Jordan, and Egypt. What about Syria?

[Levi] We want to attain true peace with Syria. We are not rejecting, eradicating, or ignoring any front. We are for peace with Syria, naturally without preconditions. I said over the weekend, and I will repeat: No preconditions! We do not accept the Syrian stand according to which Israel must get off the Golan Heights as a precondition for negotiations....

[Ronen, interrupting] About which you made the interesting remark: We will meet halfway. Thousands of commentaries followed this....

[Levi] Mr. Ronen, please let me make this clear. We are not going to negotiations while one party dictates its stand as a precondition for a dialogue. We reject every precondition. Syria has a stand, which is legitimate for it, and we have a stand: We are not getting off the Golan Heights. I will repeat: When this is the situation, when each party has its own legitimate stand, and if peace serves both parties, we will meet halfway.

[Ronen] Do you mean in the middle of the Golan Heights, not on the line Syria wants — the 4 June lines?

[Levi] Everyone is entitled to interpret my remarks as they wish. I have said this before: Syria may have a stand, but not dictate it to us; we may have a stand, but we are not dictating it. If peace serves both parties, they will meet halfway — that is, we will sit and talk.

[Ronen] Sit and talk or meet halfway on the Golan?

[Levi] Sit and talk. This government can be trusted to protect the interests, and whatever it decides will be the desirable outcome of the negotiations for Israel.

[Raz] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is arriving tomorrow morning. He will probably want to hear answers from you, not just analyses. What will you tell him about Hebron, about the resumption of negotiations with the Palestinians, and on other issues on the political agenda?

[Levi] We do not speak in dictates. We want to make progress toward peace. We are not an accused party that should respond to charges. The peace initiative started in Israel and, let me remind you, by a Likud government. The other side's demand that we execute a total withdrawal, redivide Jerusalem, if not more, dismantle the settlements, and so on and so forth, is not acceptable to us. This is why negotiations are needed.

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We will negotiate the permanent arrangement. The Palestinian Authority is our partner. We will talk with it. I hope reason will guide those who want peace. We want peace with Lebanon. We want a sovereign Lebanon with which we can live in peace and further remove threats. We want to hold negotiations without preconditions with Syria. We live in peace with Egypt, and we expect it to navigate the issues responsibly and in an atmosphere suitable for an era of peace.

[Raz] You did not answer on the Hebron issue.

[Levi] I have said discussions are being held. There are various aspects. The top most echelons are holding discussions as we speak, and we will announce our decision.

[Ronen] One last question, Foreign Minister Levi. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu invited you to join him on his first trip as prime minister to the United States. Will you go?

[Levi] No. He invited me indeed, and I appreciate this, but this is the exclusive trip of the prime minister, and so it should be. The meetings should be held on the highest levels. We are coordinated on this, and we have agreed on the issues. He will do his job, and I will stay here to do mine as deputy prime minister. We agreed on this, and I thank him for his attitude. This is how we will work. There will be more trips and, if this is called for, we will travel together. In any event, this time, the prime minister belongs in Washington, and I belong in Jerusalem.

Israel: Levi on Egyptian Scuds, Dimona Pictures, Sharon 'Crisis'

TA2506055096 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 25 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi by correspondents Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Dan] Mr. Levi, will you raise the issue of the Scuds that Egypt has purchased, in some kind of a U.S.-bypass deal, in your meeting with Secretary Christopher?

[Levi] Of course we will.

[Dan] What U.S. reaction do you expect?

[Levi] The obvious question is: Those who give us advice and wish to push us into something we want anyway, peace, should have a view of the overall picture of the entire Middle East and the way it is presented. If indeed peace is a supreme value, is this really happening on the ground? We know what goes on in Syria. We know what they are receiving from various elements, North Korea and others. Is Egypt — which, I would say, is on the same level of relations with and aid and assistance from the United States as we are and receives the most sophisticated weapons from it — heading toward peace when it makes such deals — incidentally, behind the back and contrary to agreements? Egypt should provide answers.

We cannot conceive of a situation in which Egypt would introduce a period of instability in the Middle East. Because it is the largest regional country that lives in peace with us, Egypt should serve as a model. It should navigate the area into a calm situation and examine everything through open channels without creating tension. We have to clarify these issues with our friends. Israel will not be sitting at the meeting, or in its general relations with the U.S. Administration, find itself in the position of playing the role of the only naysayer to everything. Some issues are basic for its security and future. This is why reality calls for thorough clarification.

[Friedman] Another thing we should perhaps ask our friends about is the following: Is this a mere accident that on the very morning Christopher arrives in our region, the CIA, or the administration to be more correct, publishes pictures of our nuclear reactor in Dimona on Internet and anyone with eight dollars in his pocket can buy them and use them as they see fit?

[Levi] Yes, but you know, with today's advanced innovations it is almost an international or national sport to get people interested. I would say some things fall within the realm of pure curiosity and are satisfied through various means.

[Friedman] You are not startled by this?

[Levi] If it was not published there, it would have been published in the papers, leaked, or otherwise made public. We do not consider this to be anything aimed against Israel. We can only see how the administration views the Middle East, Iranian activity, the way Syria and Hizballah behave, or Egypt's conduct. We have to be observing this together.

[Dan] Finally, Sir, are you being kept abreast of the Ari'el Sharon crisis, which seems to be resolved?

[Levi] What do you mean kept abreast? I do the pushing. I work on this issue everyday. I discussed this with the prime minister and raised his commitment to resolve the problem as he pledged he would when we formed the government. I talked to the prime minister and Sharon yesterday, and a solution will be found, I hope. I knew about yesterday's meeting. Everything will work out fine.

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Israel: Officials Discuss Possible Levi-'Arafat Meeting

TA2506055496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ilan Barukh, head of the Foreign Ministry's autonomy department, has recently met several Palestinian officials, including Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security services in the West Bank. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that in the meeting, the two discussed a possible meeting between Foreign Minister David Levi and Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Rujub told our correspondent that he made it clear to Barukh that 'Arafat is willing to receive Levi on Palestinian Authority territory, but will not meet him at the Liaison and Coordination Command in Erez. Al-Rujub added that Prime Minister Netanyahu should meet with Yasir 'Arafat.

Israel: Levi Reprimands Official for Discussing 'Arafat Meeting

TA2506111396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has ordered that Ilan Barukh, head of the Foreign Ministry autonomy department, be reprimanded because he allegedly tried to examine the possibility of a meeting between Levi and the head of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. The foreign minister's bureau said that what Barukh did is grave.

It was reported that Mr. Levi ordered that a thorough and comprehensive check of the matter be held. Until this is over, the head of the autonomy department may not have any contact with PA officials. The minister's bureau told our correspondent that Barukh's contacts were held without permission, authority, and his superiors' knowledge. The foreign minister instructed his ministry's top officials to make sure that no political issues are raised in their contacts with the PA without prior coordination and approval.

Justice Minister Ya'aqov Ne'eman has said he will not refuse to meet his PA counterpart Furayh Abu-Middayn. In reply to a question from our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld, Minister Ne'eman said he will meet him because he has never refused to meet anyone. Our correspondent says that on the agenda is the continued work of the joint Israeli-Palestinian team on legal affairs. The committee is supposed to discuss an array of legal matters: Israel's extradition requests, releasing Palestinian prisoners, and judicial and law enforcement procedures in cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel: Minister Eytan Refutes Levi Remarks on Golan 'Compromise'

TA2206110496 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Agriculture and Environment Minister Refa'el Eytan reacted this morning to remarks Foreign Minister David Levi made last night. Speaking on television, Levi said that Israel and Syria can meet halfway and did not rule out a possible territorial compromise on the Golan.

Speaking to our correspondent, Eytan said he does not know what Levi meant and what information he has and that there is nothing on which to compromise on the Golan Heights. In its guidelines, this government announced that the Golan Heights is an area vital to our security. We are not getting off the Golan Heights, Eytan said.

Israel: Qahalani, Golan Settlers React to Levi's Remarks

TA2306064796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Internal Security Minister Avigdor Qahalani will clarify with Foreign Minister David Levi what he meant when he spoke about a possible compromise on the Golan. Interviewed on Qol Yisra'el, Qahalani said he would also raise the subject in the cabinet. I suppose the current government will not cede the Golan, he said, and in any event, Israel's security line on the Golan Heights and settlements in the area should not be affected. At the same time, Qahalani favors discussions with the Syrians on the possibility of minor border modifications. I am raising these points so as not to close the door on negotiations, he said, adding that the government has its basic policy guidelines, and consequently he is not bothered by the foreign minister's statement. He believes that there are more important issues on the agenda, such as the dividing line with the Palestinians, the continuation of the peace process, and the question of Hebron.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 23 June adds: "Golan Heights leaders have reacted sharply to comments made by Foreign Minister David Levi in a television interview over the weekend." "Qatzrin Mayor Sammy Bar-Lev said that if it becomes clear that Levi's statement reflects the new government's position he will fight it with the same determination he fought the policy of the previous government.

["However, a group of Golan residents who back a territorial compromise came out in support of the foreign minister, noting that Prime Minister Netanyahu

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had said it is possible to achieve peace with Syria without an Israeli withdrawal from the Heights. Golan residents' spokeswoman Marla Ben-Matar told Steve Linde that she was not surprised by David Levi's comments, but pointed out that they did not conform to the new government's policy guidelines."]

Israel: 'Secret' Netanyahu-Hasan Talk; More on Christopher Visit

TA2406183996 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke with Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan on the telephone today and thanked him for Jordan's efforts to secure a moderate resolution at the Cairo summit. Netanyahu will apparently visit Jordan and meet with King Husayn this week.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive tomorrow, but he will probably receive no clear answer to his question on when Israel plans to implement the Hebron redeployment. Here is our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen's report:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] The foreign and finance ministers, as well as the defense minister this time, arrived for consultations at the prime minister's bureau at midday today in anticipation of Netanyahu's first meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher tomorrow. Some officials believe Christopher plans to receive clear answers to some questions. The prime minister's bureau staffers prefer a different line of thinking.

[Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States] He will definitely want to receive clear answers. As the situation is not static, the secretary of state will certainly want to hear the answers to at least some of the questions.

[Netanyahu aide Shay Bazaq] I do not know what makes you say he is expecting answers. This is the first opportunity to exchange views, update each other, and hear each other out about the different levels of the political process.

[Rosen] Tomorrow Netanyahu will tell Christopher that Israel will evacuate Hebron, but he will not say when. He will recall that Shim'on Peres made the evacuation contingent on the capture of Muhammad Dayf, among other things. Netanyahu will reserve his more detailed answers for his meeting with President Clinton.

At the same time, Netanyahu's aides will hand Christopher a list of violations committed by the Palestinians and voice concern about the resolutions of the Cairo summit — concerns that were not voiced in official statements. A senior official said at a prime minister's bureau discussion yesterday that the resolution contains harmful elements that may imply an intention to pose preconditions for the resumption of the negotiations. A senior Foreign Ministry official said at a similar discussion: It contains explicit threats of a kind the Arabs have not used in recent years; in fact, we have received an ultimatum.

[Unidentified official] One thing that has to be taken seriously are the preconditions posed by the Arabs.

[Rosen] Today, Netanyahu held a secret conversation with Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan, and the two men voiced disappointment with Egypt's performance at the summit. Netanyahu will meet with Mubarak only after his visit to Washington, but he will apparently meet with King Husayn next week. [end recording]

[A similar report by Shlomi Eldar on Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 24 June carries a recorded passage in which Amb. Rabinovich is asked: "What will satisfy Christopher?" Rabinovich replies: "I cannot say what will satisfy him. I think he will want to leave feeling he has sufficient material to allow the United States to continue to promote the peace process. It is my understanding that these materials are to be had. I think this visit will most probably be very successful."]

Israel: 'Senior' UK Sources Advise Syria To Attain Interim Accord

TA2406065396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Senior UK Government sources have said that Syria realizes now that it had wasted three years in its negotiations with Israel and that had it acted differently, it could have attained results in the negotiations on the Golan.

Our political correspondent reports that, according to information that arrived in Jerusalem, senior British representatives advised their counterparts in Damascus that it would be better for them at this time to attain an interim agreement with Israel that would include demilitarization on both sides of the border.

Israel: IDF Demands Syrian Army Redeployment North of Damascus

TA2406100396 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jun 96 pp A1, A2

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff demands that in the event of an

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Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights the Syrian Army redeploy its offensive force north of Damascus.

The General Staff's position was contained in a paper about the security arrangements required in an agreement with Syria drafted a few months ago by Brigadier General Dan Har'el, the current chief artillery officer. His recommendations were embraced by Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq and presented to former Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

In addition to a thinning-out of the Syrian forces, Shahaq demanded that Israel be allowed to operate early warning stations on the Golan for a few years after the withdrawal, and stressed that a station on Mount Hermon is vital. Shahaq presented his position to the political level and in talks with U.S. officials.

Upon handing over the job to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Peres updated him on the details of the negotiations with Syria. According to senior political sources, Peres briefed his successor on the messages and promises Israel had relayed to the Syrians in direct talks and through U.S. mediators. The resumption of the talks with the Syrians will be discussed in the talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is due here tomorrow.

The General Staff's proposal stipulates that the Syrian armored divisions currently deployed between the disengagement line and Damascus should be moved further away. This would preclude a sudden Syrian attack seeing that Syrian tanks would have to drive some 70 km to the Israeli border on the Golan slopes which would require "more than one night." This would provide Israel with early warning and enable it to prepare for an attack.

The paper drafted by Gen. Har'el notes that in the event of a full withdrawal from the Golan that does not include a significant thinning out of the Syrian Army, the IDF would have topographical and numerical inferiority, and in the event of a sudden attack it would be forced to conduct its defense battle in the Hula Valley.

According to the General Staff's proposal, the Golan Heights would be totally demilitarized after the withdrawal, and the area between the current line and Damascus would be defined as a thinned- out zone where the deployment of Syrian forces would be restricted.

The Syrians currently hold six divisions and the presidential guard (responsible for defending the regime) in the area stretching from al-Qunaytirah to Damascus. The IDF demands that Syria be allowed to keep one mechanized division in the thinned-out zone and two divisions around Damascus: the presidential guard and another division in Riyaq [name as transliterated] north of the city. The IDF demands that three armored divisions, the bulk of the Syrian Army's offensive force, be deployed deep in Syrian territory, far away from the border with Israel. [passage omitted]

The IDF's demand for a significant thinning out of the Syrian Army was one of the reasons that influenced Peres' decision to call an early election. When the General Staff paper was presented to him, Peres told the officers: "Your demands will preclude an agreement."

Peres' aides who were engaged in the political contacts and members of the U.S. peace team believed a compromise could be reached with the Syrians about thinning out their forces, albeit on a different scale than that proposed by the IDF.

These aides also hoped to persuade the chief of staff to forego his demand for Israeli early warning stations — which met firm Syrian opposition — in exchange for a U.S. "intelligence package." U.S. Administration officials suggested that the stations be staffed by U.S. technicians and provide data from spy aircraft and satellites to Syria and Israel.

The specifics of the military deployment were not discussed in the talks with the Syrians, and the sides made do with presenting the principles of the security arrangements. The Syrians demanded that the security arrangements be restricted to the border area and objected to Israeli monitoring deep in their territory. They proposed to establish confidence-building measures, such as a "hot line" between the armies to deal with crises.

[In a related report on page A4, Ben quotes "senior political sources familiar with the negotiations with Syria" as saying that Shahaq "did not want an agreement with Syria to be reached in accelerated negotiations before the elections. According to these sources, Shahaq supported peace with Syria but favored lengthier negotiations after the elections. Reacting to this report, the IDF spokesman said he 'does not react to gossip.'"]

Israel: Syrian Message on Peace Plans Received 'Several Days Ago'

TA2306084496 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jun 96 pp A1, A2

[Report by special correspondent in Cairo Gay Bekhor, Aluf Ben, 'Aqiva Eldar, Yosi Werter, and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] analysts say that the Cairo summit is an Arab countries' "muscle-flexing" signal to Israel, but that it does not indicate any weakening of the Arab willingness to pursue the peace process. According to the analysts, the Arab countries tried to inform Israel

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of their wish to continue the process, as well as convey a warning regarding their options in the event of its withdrawal from the process. The analysts explain that, despite the manifestations of unity at the summit, internal strife still exists among the participating countries.

Several days ago, Syria conveyed a message to Israel saying it is ready to resume the peace talks and it "is not closing the door" on the new government. The message stated that the Syrians wish to ascertain that the Netanyahu government is willing to conduct serious negotiations with them, and that it will not present positions such as a demand for Israeli sovereignty over the entire Golan Heights.

Foreign Minister David Levi made a series of moderate pronouncements over the weekend, concurrently with the Cairo summit meetings. Levi said he would meet with Palestinian Authority [PA] chief Yasir 'Arafat, and that the government is prepared to conduct negotiations with Syria in which "the two sides will meet each other halfway in order to achieve peace." He added that, if that happens, he will be in favor of "modifications in the Golan Heights."

Political sources said the statement had not been coordinated with the prime minister in advance. Netanyahu's bureau refused to comment on Levi's remarks. [passage omitted]

In the coming days Netanyahu will hold a series of political and security-related meetings in anticipation of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit on 25 June. Political sources estimated yesterday that as soon as the Arab summit and the Christopher visit are over, the political situation will become clearer and the government will begin drafting a political plan which Netanyahu will present during his upcoming visit to the United States. Netanyahu is examining two options: He can present U.S. President Bill Clinton with a detailed peace plan containing the specifics of the Palestinian and Syrian tracks, or he can describe his intentions in general terms, specifying only a few points. [passage omitted]

Israel: Proposed 'Security Modifications' for Hebron Detailed

TA2106184796 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will hold a discussion on counterterrorism policies and possible alternatives to the Supreme Counterterrorism Command which was dismantled. As for the redeployment in Hebron, the prime minister does not intend to retreat from the principles regarding the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the city; however, he will seek to introduce a number of changes from the security aspect. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen learned this from a senior security source at the conclusion of today's discussion on the issue in Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu summoned the foreign and defense ministers to the debate, along with senior IDF officers and security officials who briefed the cabinet ministers on the history of the negotiations with the Palestinians. At the meeting, it was assessed that the Palestinians might accept a new arrangement that would permit the introduction of security modifications into the agreement which would increase the Jewish community in Hebron by a number of new families while not changing the agreement itself in any substantive way.

Israel: IDF Sources Say Israel Should Honor Hebron Evacuation Agreement

TA2406045996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] believes that Israel should honor the agreements with the Palestinians on the evacuation of Hebron because not meeting the agreements might harm Israel's credibility and create unrest on the ground.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that over the past several days, the IDF presented its redeployment plans for Hebron, but no decisions have been made so far. Military sources say that the military echelons will adjust to whatever decision the political echelons make regarding timetables and redeployment. A senior officer stressed that there is no doubt that the security situation will deteriorate if the IDF does not meet the agreements made with the Palestinians.

Security sources believe that the top political echelons should establish contacts with the Palestinian Authority to ensure its continued struggle against terror. A senior officer noted that the IDF can evacuate Hebron within a short period of time.

Israel: Women in Green Group Demonstrate Outside U.S. Consulate

TA2506101596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, dozens of members of the Women in Green Organization staged a demonstration in front of the U.S. Consulate on Agron Street in Jerusalem. They were protesting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit in Israel, claiming

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that the U.S. statesman came here to pressure the new government and that the United States has no right to intervene in Israeli affairs. Our correspondent Esti Perez reports that the demonstrators wore feathers in their hair to stress that the Americans have seized Indian lands.

Israel: Commentary Criticizes Christopher Over 'Land for Peace'

TA2506130796 (Internet) Women in Green Information Service in English 25 Jun 96

[Commentary: "Another Indian Feather in Your Cap, Mr. Christopher?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] America has coined on most of their currency the central phrase expressing the faith on which that nation was founded "In God We Trust." Your U.S. State Department, Mr. Christopher doesn't really believe in that maxim as it pertains to Israel.

For whereas the Bible tells us the Lord promised all of the Land of Israel to the Jewish People, America chose to: (1) go down the anti-democratic Peres path to Oslo, where portions of Jewish Land are given to the Arabs, under the mistaken notion that will bring peace; (2) restrict our growth and development in our own native land, under another of your bizarre concepts that Jewish development of their own land, in their ancestral and historical Judaea and Samaria, would be an "Obstacle to Peace"; (3) diligently avoid recognizing Jerusalem, as the Bible does, as the Capital of Israel.

Women In Green in their demonstration welcoming you to Jerusalem on Tuesday, June 25, 1996 at 10:15 A.M. on Agron Street, outside the American Consulate, will be there in feathered Indian headdress and Mexican sombreros and our message to you will be clear and simple:

We are not going to give up the Land that the Lord Promised us for America's promises of "peace".

We don't want to end up on your "Reservation" for endangered Jews!

We don't want to end up as the original Indian and Mexican inhabitants whom America in the past convinced to give up their "Land For Peace."

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Jordan: Israeli Envoy Criticizes 'Timing' of Arab Cairo Summit

JN2406203896 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Amman, Israel's Ambassador Shim'on Shamir told News at Ten that he felt there was a positive side for the Arab summit but that there were questions in Israel about its timing.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Well, on the positive side, I think it is very significant that the highest forum in the Arab world, the Arab summit meeting, endorsed the peace process unanimously and all the agreements that have been signed so far. And to the extent that there were attempts to stop the expansion of the network of Israeli-Arab relations, those attempts obviously failed.

On the less positive side, there are questions in Israel about the timing and the circumstances of this summit meeting. The new Government of Israel is still in the process of crystallizing, formulating positions, studying important issues, and taking decisions. To meet at this early stage and face Israel with a sort of a fait accompli position, which is very well crystallized, is seen in Israel as something that is contrary to the spirit of dialogue, the spirit of give and take, the spirit of negotiating on issues.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Netanyahu, after his election, said that no preconditions on peace negotiations in search for security for Israel. What does he mean with no preconditions to the peace treaty?

[Shamir] Well, I think the position is very clear. No preconditions means that every party can come to the table and present every issue they want to present. The Israelis have their position and the Arab parties have their positions, and the two sides will have to sit together and search for compromises. [end recording]

Jordan: World Trade Center Blast Suspect, Attorney Comment on Case

JN2306061596 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 22-28 June 96 pp 10, 35

[Report on interviews with Jordanian Ahmad 'Ajjaj, World Trade Center bombing suspect, in New York, and 'Ali Sabra, 'Ajjaj's attorney, in Amman, by correspondent Hashim al-Khalidi; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] There seem to be new developments in the case of Jordanian Ahmad 'Ajjaj, who is suspected of involvement in New York's World Trade Center's bombing. 'Ajjaj continues to be held in Florence Prison in New York, pending his appeal, which is slated to be heard on 8 July 1996 by U.S. Judge Ken Davy [name as transliterated].

To shed light on these developments, SHIHAN interviewed defense attorney 'Ali Sabra. The case, he said, began on 26 February 1993, the date my client was indicted in the bombing of the WTC, even though he was in prison at the time.

Asked by SHIHAN whether the U.S. Embassy in Amman cooperated with him concerning testimony sought from Jordanian witnesses inside the embassy compound, Sabra said Maranda-Fritz [preceding name published in English], the defense attorney in the United States, had coordinated things with the U.S. Justice Department and the Department of State. The Department of State, Sabra said, contacted U.S. Consul Clore [preceding name published in English] to set up a meeting between the two. But when he went for the meeting, Sabra was surprised that the consul adopted a negative posture on the issue. The consul, Sabra adds, met him from behind a glass screen, as if to imply he regarded him a terrorist.

Sabra adds: "Such an attitude on the part of the consul made me feel uncomfortable and was extremely bad. I thought the U.S. Embassy would assist my effort to obtain the approval of Jordanian officials to hear witnesses' testimony at the embassy building and then endorse it, but it showed no such cooperation."

Of his client's innocence, Sabra said: "I am positive about the innocence of my client for a number of reasons, not the least being that my client was in prison at the time of the explosion and had been there for six months before the bombing. My client had nothing to do with any organization or armed group. What bolsters my confidence in my client's innocence is the false testimonies made under duress from the public prosecutors and the FBI. Among such witnesses are an immigration official at Kennedy Airport and a gas station attendant, who, rather than point to two of the real suspects, identified two jury members as defendants. This is in addition to the activities by 'Imad Salim, a double agent. Audio tapes presented by the state prosecution showed the U.S. Administration was involved in the operation."

Sabra adds: "Imad Salim, an Egyptian, was recruited by Egyptian intelligence and the FBI to infiltrate the Islamic groups, specifically Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's. On one of the FBI recorded tapes is the voice of 'Imad Salim. When asked about Ahmad 'Ajjaj, the officer answers that he neither knew him nor had heard his name before. When the FBI officer tells him that he

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offered them nothing, the officer answers: It is enough that I gave you a bomb.

In answering questions by SHIHAN about whether he had been subjected to any threats or pressures, Sabra said that there had been none from any quarter, because his mission is being carried out outside the United States. But he has been in constant touch with his client since October 1994, because the United States allows a prisoner to make local and international phone calls at his or his attorney's expense.

Sabra said 'Ajjaj is being treated extremely badly and that he has gone on a hunger strike more than 15 times to protest his mistreatment. At one time, his diet had to be reduced to glucose. As an example of the ill treatment, Sabra notes that 'Ajjaj was denied his right to perform Friday and group prayers and that, contrary to the teachings of Islam, he was served pork. In addition, he was held in solitary confinement for long periods of time and barred from mixing with other inmates. He was also occasionally denied telephone access to his family and his attorney. As for his client's indictment sheet, 'Ajjaj said that on 26 February 1993, he was charged with ten counts while in prison, including involvement in the bombing of properties in the United States belonging to individuals and the U.S. Government, causing the deaths of Americans. He was sentenced to 240 years in prison and a $250,000 fine. The jail term represents the combined ages of the six victims of the blast multiplied by 40, the remaining anticipated life expectancy of the victims.

Asked whether 'Ajjaj had been allowed enough time to defend himself, Sabra said: My client was not given even the ghost of a chance to defend himself. For instance, Judge Davy refused to allow Ahmad 'Ajjaj to avail himself of the services of fingerprint, explosives, forensics, or calligraphy experts. Even the Jordanian expert Muhammad al-Hayfawi, who tested a letter written by Ahmad 'Ajjaj for its date, has not been reimbursed yet. Another instance of the obstruction employed by Judge Davy, according to Sabra, is his rejection of testimony by defense witnesses whose could have turned the case upside down. The judge also refused to hear the testimony of forensics expert "Fredrick Whitehorse," who was head of the FBI chemical laboratory and who had announced that the government had manipulated and rigged evidence and pressured him to alter his testimony in order to incriminate the accused.

Sabra adds that the judge also turned down a request by Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf — the person extradited by Pakistan to the United States to face charges as the prime suspect in the WTC bombing — that his trial take place in the presence of the four suspects in the case: Ahmad 'Ajjaj, Muhammad Salamah, Mahmud Abu-Halimah, and Nidal 'Ayyad. Yusuf said that he could supply evidence to clear the four.

Sabra said the court made sure that the attorneys named would cooperate with it so that they would not defend their clients as they should. Attorney William Chancellor [name as transliterated] even charged that the defense attorneys in the case had been bought by the government. As proof of this, none of the defense attorneys demanded that the trial be held outside New York, the site of the crime, so that the members of the jury would be less likely to be influenced by proximity. Thus the trial was held in New York, and the jury was selected from the same location.

Reminded of his questioning of the integrity of the U.S. justice system, Sabra said: I do not trust Judge Davy; he is unfair and does not care about justice. He had preconceived ideas about the case, and his actions show him to be biased against Islam and Muslims. Take, for instance, his stand on the extradition of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq to Israel. It is known that Judge Davy signed the extradition papers.

At the conclusion of his statements to SHIHAN, attorney Sabra wondered: Why are the suspects in this case being tried in federal court when, under U.S. law, such a crime falls within the jurisdiction of the state court, rather than the federal court.

In coordination with Sabra, SHIHAN also managed to get through to Jordanian Ahmad 'Ajjaj, accused of the WTC bombing, at Florence Prison in New York, where he is being held. SHIHAN interviewed 'Ajjaj about his treatment by prison authorities and the pressures on him. The following is the conversation with him:

[Al-Khalidi] How do you explain your conviction?

['Ajjaj] I was convicted because I am an Arab Muslim, which is enough for someone to stand accused in the United States.

[Al-Khalidi] You were sentenced to a long prison term and a $250,000 fine. Did you appeal the sentence?

['Ajjaj] The appeal will be heard on 8 July 1996, but my hopes of success there are nil. The government-appointed attorney defending my case is not neutral and is unconcerned about my case. Besides, he tries to ignore the evidence that proves my innocence.

[Al-Khalidi] What evidence is there to prove your innocence?

['Ajjaj] I was in prison when the explosion occurred, a fact documented by the U.S. Government and prison

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records. The site of the explosion is 300 meters [as published] from the prison.

[Al-Khalidi] Why do you think you were charged in the bombing the center?

['Ajjaj] I refused to sell out to the U.S. government. They told me I was not a suspect in the case. I was informed the government wanted to strike a deal with me, under which I would receive a $4 million cash reward, U.S. citizenship, a decent home, and police protection in exchange for my testimony against my colleagues.

[Al-Khalidi] And what made you refuse the offer?

['Ajjaj] It would have caused me disgrace on doomsday.

[Al-Khalidi] What is your relationship with the other suspects?

['Ajjaj] I do not know any of them. I have never been to New York. I lived in Texas, and the suspects were in New York.

[Al-Khalidi] Some Jordanians are said to be willing to testify on your behalf.

['Ajjaj] Their court testimony will prove crucial and invalidate the U.S. Government arguments. The other defendants have refused the services of the defense attorney and decided to be their own defense, as did Ramzi Yusuf.

[Al-Khalidi] What do you think of the Jordanian Government's stand on your case?

['Ajjaj] We demand that the government keep track of developments in our case, because we are suffering from injustice. Huge obstacles are thrown up in the face of our effort to clear our names.

[Al-Khalidi] Are you being treated differently than the suspects in the Oklahoma bombing?

['Ajjaj] Very much so. We are kept in solitary confinement, and the jury members in our case were chosen from the same location as the site of the explosion. Thus, they were inclined to return a guilty verdict. In the Oklahoma bombing trial, the juries were selected in another state. In contrast to the Oklahoma bombing inmates, we are housed in the same wards as common criminals and drug smugglers. We have also come under pressure.

[Al-Khalidi] How are conditions in prison?

['Ajjaj] Conditions are very difficult, and we are continually subjected to pressure. We staged hunger strikes after they had trampled the Koran under their feet and served us pork.

[Al-Khalidi] Would you like to say anything else?

['Ajjaj] I would like to declare that Islam has nothing to do with terrorism, and, indeed, it enjoins against the use of terror. The truth will emerge, and the whole world will one day learn who was behind the WTC blast. Mind you that fingers were pointed at us in the immediate aftermath of the Oklahoma bombing. If the real culprits in the bombing had not been caught, we would have been placed in the dock for life.

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Lebanon: Buwayz Comments on Christopher Tour

NC2506123496 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this afternoon commented on the visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, saying that the Israeli Government statement on Israel's commitment to peace as endorsed in Madrid was vague. He added: We are faced with a change in the mechanism and bases of the negotiations. He said the United States is trying to return Israel to its original stance. He expressed his belief that the Arab stance at the Arab summit was very clear.

This afternoon Buwayz reviewed the results of the Arab summit, Lebanese-European ties, and the prospects for the peace process with EU ambassadors at the Italian ambassador's home.

Lebanon: Nasrallah Warns Israel Not To Expand Border Strip

NC2406185696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah, has reemphasized that resistance and jihad operations will continue until the occupied territories are liberated from Zionist occupation.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspapers published today, al- Sayyid Nasrallah refers to the recent operations carried out by the Islamic Resistance in Marj 'Uyun and the al-Dabshah position in the occupied border strip, saying that the Zionist enemy suffered big losses during those operations.

The Hizballah secretary general added: We do not behave as the Zionist forces do. They kill innocent women and children.

He affirmed that if Israel tries to expand the border strip, it will suffer bigger losses because the Resistance will step up its operations.

Lebanon: 2 Bombs Explode Near IDF Convoy; No Casualties

TA2406185496 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two explosive charges were detonated against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in south Lebanon today. There were no casualties. Our army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that one charge exploded at midday near an IDF convoy in the vicinity of the village of 'Ayn Ibil in the western sector of the security zone. There were no casualties. A bomb disposal unit was summoned to the site, and as the experts were combing the area, another charge went off, again causing no casualties.

Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Claims Attack, Casualties

NC2506082296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 June 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Caution prevails in the liberated areas near the occupied [border] strip in light of intermittent Israeli attacks on the areas. The Israeli occupation army has denied that Katyusha rockets fell inside the occupied border strip, as reported by the Agent Lahd's radio [Kafr Killa Voice of the South]. But the enemy's army has admitted that two explosive charges were detonated under an Israeli military convoy, claiming that no casualties were inflicted. The Islamic Resistance has claimed responsibility for the operation, adding that it detonated an explosive charge as a Zionist patrol of six mechanized vehicles passed on the 'Ayn Ibil-Bint Jubayl road, inflicting casualties. The Islamic Resistance pointed out that the enemy brought reinforcements to the explosion site. The Resistance members, meanwhile, detonated another explosive charge, leaving enemy personnel dead or wounded.

Elsewhere, the occupation forces shelled areas in the south and Western al-Biqa' intermittently and intensified their oppressive measures and systematic terrorist actions against citizens. The Israeli forces tightened the noose on people crossing to the occupied area. New agents have been authorized to issue permits. Information indicates that members of the Agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] are always firing indiscriminately in village squares, as happened yesterday in Bayt Lif, where SLA members fired in the air without cause.

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Syria: Israel Urged To Adopt 'Positive' Peace Stands

JN2506105196 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0458 GMT 25 Jun 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: We can positively say that the Cairo summit succeeded in straightening things out on the Arab level. Under the headline "The Results of the Summit Are in Favor of All Arabs," the paper adds: The summit reemphasized the constants of joint Arab action, which are basically represented by reunifying the Arabs, closing their ranks, and reinforcing their position so as to confront the serious challenges facing our nation. The summit also sought to foil enemy conspiracies which are aimed at our existence and destiny.

The paper says: The current stage is one of the most serious stages in modern Arab history due to Arab fragmentation, disunity, preoccupation with unimportant issues, differences in viewpoints about the major pan-Arab issues and interests, and to the pressures, threats, and covetousness to which they are exposed.

The paper notes: These threats and covetousness are no longer confined to Israel, but also apply to Turkey which seeks to impose its control over the region's water resources and to revive its defunct influence in the Middle East.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Cairo summit was held to reactivate Arab solidarity, strengthen the Arab position, and achieve the widest possible level of joint Arab coordination to meet the requirements of the stage and to confront the imminent dangers. Syria has stressed this, and has worked and is working for this under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

AL-BA'TH says: The Cairo summit addresses a clear message to all sides to the effect that the Arabs are determined and capable of facing the current challenges.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The Arab summit has said its word. Whether Israel rejects or accepts this word, it will be the word which will determine the future of the region, which will only be an Arab future.

Commenting on the Arab summit in Cairo, its results, and positive reflections on the future of the homeland and the nation, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The summit addressed a clear message to all the world peoples regarding the Arabs' desire for a just and comprehensive peace, and their readiness to achieve an honorable and fair solution based on Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the Golan, and southern Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Through the Cairo summit, the Arabs put the world before its political and moral responsibilities, and appealed to all the efficient forces in the international arena to work to save the peace process from the intransigence and extremism displayed by the new Israeli Government.

The paper notes: The Arabs did not proceed from a position of weakness or fear, but from a position of concern about achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Israel should reconsider Netanyahu's no's which conflict with the simplest conditions and requirements of peace, and adopt positive stands that convince the Arabs of its sincere peaceful intentions and remove, even partially, their doubts about the true nature of its known hostile intentions.

In another commentary under the headline "The Quick Reply," AL- THAWRAH says: The Israeli Government reiterated its rejection of the Arab summit's resolution on the option of a just and comprehensive peace based on the Madrid terms of reference. The paper notes: Israel does not want the aspired peace; neither does it want to deal positively with its bases.

AL-THAWRAH calls on the Arabs to reconsider their stands toward Israel and to take practical steps and measures toward reconsidering normalization and relations with it in implementation of the Cairo resolutions. This is because immediately after the summit's final statement was issued, Israel announced its relinquishment of the peace bases.

AL-THAWRAH holds the international community and the peace process cosponsors responsible for quick action to put an end to Israel's quarrelsomeness and indifference to the will of peace.

Commenting on the same subject under the headline "A Summit Which Is Up to Level of Challenges," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The summit's resolutions and the Arab consensus on facing challenges bolstered hopes for a better Arab future. The paper praises Syria's great pivotal role, particularly the efforts of President Hafiz al-Asad to make the summit produce these positive results on the level of Arab cooperation and coordination on the major stands and issues.

TISHRIN says: President al-Asad contributed to clearing the Arab atmosphere. He was the first to call for holding the summit and to call on the Arabs to assume their pan-Arab responsibilities. These efforts were crowned with complete success. The paper adds: The summit has put the Arab house in order and awakened all sides. The Arabs' response was up to the level of

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external challenges, and the popular hopes and aspirations.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: There is no freedom without force, and rights will be lost amid fragmentation and splits. Arab unity is the impregnable fence and a guarantee for the present and future.

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar's Party Appreciates Iran's Efforts for Peace

LD2306203896 Tehran IRNA in English 2023 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 23, IRNA — The Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan on Sunday [23 June] hailed the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to help resolve the Afghan crisis and restore peace to the country.

A party official, Qutbuddin Helal in a meeting with the Iranian ambassador to Islamabad, Mohammad Mehdi Akhondzadeh, elaborated on the negotiation procedures and agreement reached between his party and the Afghan government, calling it an "important" step towards political understanding in the country.

Helal handed the Iranian ambassador an invitation letter from Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar inviting Iranian officials to take part in the oath-taking ceremony of the Afghan prime minister in Kabul.

According to a recent 6-point agreement between Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, former premier Hekmatyar, will again assume the prime minister's post next Wednesday [26 June].

In the meeting, Akhondzadeh expressed Iran's support for talks among the Afghan factions, calling it a suitable way of solving the Afghan crisis.

Afghanistan: Hezb-e Eslami Official Interviewed on Arrival of Hekmatyar

LD2406195796 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Interview with al-Haj Mohammad Farid, member of the political commission of Hezb-e Eslami, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given — recorded; monitored in progress]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent]...As you know, a month ago, after a series of contacts, an agreement was signed between Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and Golboddin Hekmatyar [words indistinct]. Please tell us about the details of the agreement.

[Farid] As was stated by brother Aziz Murad, [President Rabbani's spokesman] a month ago an agreement was signed in Mahipar between brother Hekmatyar, amir of Hezb-e Eslami, and Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

On the basis of that agreement, brother Hekmatyar will take up the post of prime minister in an interim government. He will prepare the ground for future elections, in which all strata, parties, and people of Afghanistan should take part. Therefore, security should be ensured in Afghanistan. It will take measures toward the return of all refugees to the country. They have signed the agreement, which consists of a number of articles.

Thanks to God, a month after the agreement, the ground has been prepared for brother Hekmatyar to arrive in Kabul on 26 June. One of the articles of the agreement says that brother Hekmatyar should attend the swearing-in ceremony on 26 June.

[Correspondent] [Passage indistinct]

[Farid] As you know, the Islamic State of Afghanistan and Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan are like two brothers. There are no obstacles or problems between them. There were some misunderstandings but they have now been resolved. They will now work with each other like brothers.

During the meetings that we had with esteemed brother Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; brother Ahmad Shah Mas'ud; and other esteemed brothers, they expressed [words indistinct] about the arrival of brother Hekmatyar, the arrival of the Hezb-e Eslami.

Also, brother Hekmatyar considers the Jam'iyat-e Eslami brothers as his own brothers. He considers working together as a requirement of the time. There is no problem. The propaganda being spread by a number of foreign news agencies or newspapers [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Thank you very much al-Haj Mohammad Farid, member of the political commission of Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan, for talking to us.

Afghanistan: High State Council Approves Arrival of Hekmatyar

LD2306204896 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The High State Council held a session today chaired by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the council. The council approved the arrival in Kabul of engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan. The secretariat of the High State Council reports that the political situation in the country and recent developments were discussed during today's session. The council said the agreements reached between the government and Hezb-e Eslami were in the interests of the peace process in the country and called on all concerned parties, forces, and factions to join [word indistinct] peace axis in order to strengthen the peace process.

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The council stated that inter-Afghan dialogue was the most important method for achieving a reliable peace. Issues relating to the Afghan problem can only be resolved by the Afghans themselves and inside their country. Those personalities, circles, organizations and countries that want to play a role in resolving the current problems, should strengthen inter-Afghan negotiations by their assistance and through this contribute toward the peace process. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan: Envoy Says Foreign Intervention Hampering Peace

LD2506083096 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Foreign countries' intervention in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan will jeopardize its territorial integrity, national unity and political independence, and undermine the basis of its reconstruction, said Seyyed Mohammad Kheyrkhah, the Afghan ambassador to Tehran.

In an interview with the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' printed Tuesday, [25 June] Kheyrkhah stressed that Afghans themseves should solve their problems within the context of a national council where all Afghan rival factions are represented.

Urging all belligerent groups to patch up their disputes through peaceful means, he said the establishment of an interim government with the contribution of all rival parties would provide the grounds for general elections and pave the way for Afghan reconstruction.

On peace efforts in Afghanistan, Kheyrkhah lauded the intensive mediation pursued by Iran and said the visits of Iranian Deputy Minister [for Asia-Pacific Affairs] 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi and his meetings with rival Afghan factions were fruitful.

In line with these efforts, the daily reported that Tehran has invited leaders of various Afghan factions and the government to attend a seminar on Afghanistan, scheduled on July 1.

Turning to a gathering on Afghanistan to be held today in Washington with the attendance of representatives of the Afghan Government and its rival parties, the envoy told the paper there was no hope that the seminar would be able to come up with clear-cut and practical solutions to the Afghan crisis, as according to U.S. officials, the seminar would merely be a hearing on Afghanistan's problems.

As to the idea that U.S. politicians want to curb the flow of weapons into Afghanistan, he noted that Kabul welcomes the move as long as the ban would be comprehensive and not discriminatory, adding that the opposition should not be supplied with arms while banning the government.

The daily also wrote that Kheyrkhah urged the international community to help Afghanistan and called on regional countries, such as Pakistan, "to pursue a constant policy toward the country", adding that neighboring countries should try to meet each other's requirements.

He further underlined the necessity for regional states, especially the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to establish more communication and transportation links.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Prime Minister Addresses Nation 24 Jun

BK2406181096 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1330 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Address to the nation by Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] My dear brothers and sisters: Peace be upon you. To begin, I offer many thanks to God for granting the Bangladesh Awami League an opportunity to serve you by allowing it to secure a majority in the recent parliamentary elections. I remember with great reverence the father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I also remember the late Sher-e Bangla A.K. Fazlul Haq, the late Hussain Shahid Suhrawardy, the late people's leader Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, Shahid [names indistinct] and all the martyrs of the Language Movement, [word indistinct] 11-Point Movement, the popular movement of 1969, the great Liberation War of 1971, and all those who attained martyrdom on 15 August 1975. I fondly remember all those martyrs who sacrificed their greatest possession — their lives — in the past in the movements to secure people's rights and those who were made to undergo oppression and torture to secure a better life for us.

I had promised you after entering politics that it would be my struggle to ensure the establishment of the people's right to vote with the slogan: "I Will Myself Exercise My Right To Vote, and I Will Vote for Anyone I Like." You have emerged victorious in this struggle. I express my sincere love to the people of Bangladesh, with whose support we have been able to establish a government after 21 years, after overcoming a series of conspiracies and crossing a [word indistinct] long way. This victory is the victory of the struggle of justice and truth over injustice. This victory is the victory of

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the [word] of the people of Bangladesh. This election has defeated [words indistinct], clashes, corruption, and [words indistinct].

I extend my sincere felicitations to the Election Commission, all returning officers, presiding officers, polling officers, and all other officials and employees related to the election for conducting the election with neutrality. I thank all members of all law enforcement agencies and those associated with it for maintaining peace and order during the election. I also thank the radio and television officials involved in reporting the election results. I extend my hearty felicitations to the chief adviser of the caretaker government and his [word indistinct] advisers. I also thank the president. Lastly, I extend my sincere felicitations to all political parties, all election candidates—whether victorious or defeated — for making (?positive) contributions to the process of strengthening democracy.

This is not a matter of victory or defeat. Democracy has won the election through [words indistinct] of people. At this juncture of assuming the responsibility for running the country, I would like to say a few words about the country's economy, politics, and social (?issues). [Words indistinct] in social and political life. The people's lives have become unbearable due to the oppression of the possessors of illegal weapons and the extortionists. Having enjoyed political patronage, they have become [words indistinct]. We want a terrorism-free society, a secure life, a healthy and [word indistinct] atmosphere, where [words indistinct] will establish an atmosphere for obtaining an education and where the educational campus will be a free arena for the development of talent and wisdom and a pilgrimage center for the development of mankind and creative skills.

You are the future of the country and the nation. You should not have weapons in your hands. You should have the weapons to become human beings. We would like to give you books, papers, and pens and help you develop as fitting citizens of the country. [passage indistinct]

Women should feel secure on the street and in their workplaces. Artists will be working in a free atmosphere to achieve the desired horizons of excellence. Scientists and researchers will discover new technologies and methods. Professionals will freely reach the heights of their capabilities. Government officers and employees will fulfill their responsibilities in an atmosphere free from injustice and [words indistinct]. Journalists will independently present correct information and reports. Intellectuals will be busy in their fields in a free atmosphere. [passage indistinct]

We want to live in a society where it is possible to lead a life in a noble, secure, and dignified manner. All governmental [words indistinct] and economic planning are all mainly aimed at achieving this objective. Why is the [words indistinct] of service to people so polluted by nepotism, corruption, and the abuse of power? It was possible to [words indistinct], so why it is not possible today? What change has occurred in the administration for which [words indistinct]. Whom do this legal system, this judicial system, and this administrative system serve? Whose interest do they take protect? Who are going to be [word indistinct] by the governmental machinery with the people's money? Why do the people fear government officers? We have to rid the nation of this.

In every interview immediately after we won the majority in the election, I said that it would be the first priority of the new government to improve the law and order situation. To realize this objective, all criminal and terrorist activities, including the (?possession of) illegal weapons, extortion, (?theft), kidnapping and torture of women, will be dealt with severely, regardless of any party affiliations. In order to immediately establish justice and the rule of law in the country, we will present the necessary bills in the parliament to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

The present situation is caused by corruption. Action will be taken in accordance with the law of the land on the basis of a full investigation against those who have illegally changed their fate by usurping the assets of the country and the people. I would, however, like to assure you of one thing: No action will be taken against anyone out of vengeance or with the intention to unfairly harass someone.

We want to uphold the rights and dignity of people in every sphere, and we are committed to the establishment [words indistinct] of the governmental administration. I would like to mention here that an alert society is needed to establish a corruption-free system. Avoid the corrupt people in society and ostracize them socially. Refrain yourselves from giving bribes. Be aware of your civil rights. Corruption never flourishes from only one side.

Now, let us go to party (?policies). The appointment and promotion of officials in the government will be effected only on the basis of professional capability and expertise, not on the basis of allegiance to the ruling political party. What happened during the past several years, however, is that a frightening trend of politicizing was witnessed in every stage of the administration. We want to see the administration truly engaged in the service of the people. Our Constitution says that the officials and employees of the republic are the servants

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of the people. We are committed to implement this rule. We would like to establish the chain of commands [preceding three words in English] at every level of the administration in order to make the administration effective.

The parliament is the (?central point) for discussion of solutions for all problems. [passage indistinct] Through this (?institution) one day the dream of promised consensus will be realized. I am making a humble call to all political parties and members to work for turning the parliament into this [words indistinct].

Dear countrymen, I would like to assure the World Bank, the Asian [Development] Bank, and all foreign development partners and bilateral development partners that (?our) government will (?honor) all agreements and understandings signed by the previous government. In the development program of our government, agriculture will get the top priority. Necessary subsidies will be given for the development of agriculture and the farmer. Steps will be taken to modernize the agricultural system, thereby improving the life of farmers. We are committed to village-based cottage industries. In the industrialization sector, the process of privatization will continue, and government involvement will be gradually diminished.

In the trade sector, our government is fully committed to the open market economy. We will keep a close watch, however, to see that [words indistinct] to stand the competition. Steps will be taken to improve the lives of workers by ensuring their minimum wages. A fair labor policy will be formulated in coordination with workers and owners.

A local governmental system will be set up by including the democratically elected representatives, and the local governmental system will be made dynamic and strong.

Radio and television are [words indistinct]. They cannot be anyone's individual property. An unfortunate (?tendency) has emerged in this country's administrative system to consider the opposition party as the antistate party. The time has now come to understand that antigovernment and antistate are (?two different things). Autonomy will be granted to radio and television so that they do not turn out to be the government's propaganda machinery. [passage indistinct] The tradition of our [words indistinct], the progress and prosperity of the nation, its inspiration, art, literature and culture, [words indistinct] will be propagated.

I would also like to report that the nationalized newspapers will be denationalized as soon as possible. This is why we would like to make (?dissemination of) information to the people freer.

I have already ordered [words indistinct] those who sacrificed their lives in [words indistinct] in the formation of a neutral caretaker government. An order has also been issued to withdraw cases [words indistinct]. Necessary instructions have been given to take appropriate steps for the treatment and welfare of those who were injured. [passage indistinct]

[Words indistinct] you have reposed on me the great responsibility of running the country. It is not possible for any one person to fulfill this responsibility. [passage indistinct]. You know that the father of the nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, [words indistinct] it is the only wish in my life that the people of Bangladesh have food, clothing, housing, and live in peace and prosperity. Unquote. I pray to God, the most compassionate, so he enables me to unitedly fulfill the unfinished task of creating a golden Bangladesh.

Dear brothers and sisters, do you remember this line of the national anthem: My beloved golden Bangladesh, I love you? The golden Bangladesh dreamed by the Bengali [word indistinct]. His bullet-riddled heart bore the fervent desire to give the people of golden Bangladesh a smile on their lips. Will that dream only remain enshrined in that line of the national anthem? The responsibility for creating that golden Bangladesh has come. It cannot be the responsibility of the Awami League alone. We unitedly liberated this country. At an [words indistinct], we have to unitedly (?move forward) in another struggle to rid the country of the (?influence) of terrorism, corruption, and maladministration [words indistinct]. We did not take any victory procession to make this election victory memorable. We did not observe celebrations either. [words indistinct] I am dedicating this people's victory to your beloved leader.

Let all of Bangladesh be imbued with the spirit of the days of the war of independence. [words indistinct] Long live Bangladesh.

Bangladesh: Prime Minister Asks Officials To 'Avoid' Differences

BK2406132796 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon government officials to work with honesty and devotion in order to realize the people's aspirations. She made the call in her first address to officials at the prime minister's office at noon today. Sheikh Hasina told the officials that they should remember while performing the duties of democracy that they are the servants of the people and not the masters.

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Recalling her promises to the people, the prime minister said that she has assumed the responsibility of running the government with the only objective to work for the people. She said that we want to work for the people's welfare by avoiding all kinds of party and ideological differences. Sheikh Hasina said that no real development of the country is possible without the people's economic emancipation. She advised the officials to work unitedly so that they can extend the fruits of their service to the people. The prime minister sought the wholehearted and sincere cooperation of all levels of officials and employees in order to fulfill the promises she made to the nation.

Bangladesh: Jailed Jatiya Leader, 40 MP's Take Oath of Office

BK2306133096 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Forty-one new members of parliament belonging to different parties took the oath of office today. Among them are 26 members of the Jatiya Party, 11 members of the Awami League, three members of the Jamaat-i-Islami, and one member of the Islami Oikya Jote. The oath of office for the Jatiya Party MP's was administered by Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali this morning in committee Room No. 1 of the Parliament House. The MP's of the Jatiya Party who took oath of office included jailed Party Chairman H.M. Ershad; Senior Vice Chairman Begum Raushan Ershad; and Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju.

Three newly elected MP's of Jamaat-i-Islami also took the oath of office in the speaker's chambers. Their oath of office was administered by Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali. Eleven members of the Awami League, and one member of the Islami Oikya Jote also took the oath of office in the speaker's chambers this afternoon.

Our parliament representative reports that Jatiya Party MP's held a meeting after taking their oath of office. The meeting was presided over by Party Chairman H.M. Ershad. The meeting decided that Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju will perform the responsibilities of the leader of the parliamentary party of the Jatiya Party in the absence of Party Chairman H.M. Ershad.

Bangladesh: Former Coup Leaders Reportedly Flee in Fear of Arrest

BK2406131096 Hong Kong AFP in English 1259 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, June 24 (AFP) — Most leaders of the 1975 army coup in Bangladesh in which Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's father and other family members were killed, have fled the country fearing arrests, a source close to the leaders said Monday [24 June].

The sources said four of the coup leaders left the country just ahead of Sheikh Hasina's swearing in on Sunday.

Sheikh Hasina, who took charge Monday, has repeatedly said she does not believe in revenge and that law could take its own course.

Her Awami League election manifesto surprised Bangladeshis by dropping the demand for repealing the Indemnity Ordinance that constitutionally bars the trial of the coup leaders.

Her father and Bangladesh's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with most of his family members in the August 15, 1975 coup. Sheikh Hasina and her younger sister survived as they were abroad at that time.

Chowdhury Mohammad Faruq, said to be associated with the rightwing Freedom Party (FP) founded by the coup leaders, told AFP that retired colonel Abdur Rashid, a wealthy businessman, left the country along with two other coup leaders a week ago.

"Rashid often goes abroad on business, but this time his decision (to leave the country) was probably influenced by the political change," said Faruq, editor of the daily Millat, the FP's mouthpiece.

Retired lieutenant colonel Shariful Haq Dalim, until recently Bangladesh's high commissioner in Kenya, reportedly left Dhaka a week ago. He was sacked on corruption charges four months ago.

Retired colonel Faruq Rahman, another of the coup leaders said the purpose of the coup was not served and practically nothing had changed in the 21 years since the Awami League was ousted.

Faruq Rahman lost to Rashid in FP's internal power struggle and has kept a low profile over the past several years.

Most of the coup leaders have been staying abroad since 1975 on diplomatic assignments.

Bangladesh: Zia Defers Taking MP Oath for 'Technical Reasons'

BK2406163196 Hong Kong AFP in English 1531 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, June 24 (AFP) — The head of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Khaleda Zia, Monday [24 June] again defered taking her oath as a member of parliament for "technical reasons," party officials said.

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Although a total of 108 out of 110 party MPs who retained seats took the oath, Zia, who had stayed away from the ceremony Sunday, did not take the oath for the second time citing "technical reasons."

The reason was that she and former finance minister Saifur Rahman were yet to decide which of the seats they won in the election they would retain.

As some MPs contested from more than one constituency, bye-elections will be held for six vacated seats, including four vacated by Zia, within 90 days.

Zia refused to make any comment on the current situation, but her deputy Badruddoza Chowdhury was quoted as saying by the official BSS news agency that the BNP would form a shadow cabinet and play a positive role in the opposition.

Earlier she congratulated her arch-rival Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed and wished her success.

"Congratulations for becoming Bangladesh's prime minister," Zia said in a brief letter carried to Wajed late Sunday along with a bouquet.

Wajed was sworn-in Sunday as Bangladesh's second woman prime minister after her Awami League won the June 12 general elections.

Soon after the swearing in, Wajed appealed to her predecessor Zia to, "forget all differences for greater national interest, for building a happy Bangladesh."

Elected members of other opposition groups — the Jatiya Party (JP) of jailed former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad, the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party, the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and the Islami Oikya Jote took their oaths as MPs Sunday.

On Sheikh Hasina's call for cooperation, Chowdhury said "we are still not sure if it was a coalition or a national government."

Chowdhury was referring to the induction as a cabinet minister of JP secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju.

Bangladesh: Army Chief Tells Army Failed Coup 'Closed Issue'

BK2106125496 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, June 21 (AFP) — Bangladesh army chief Lieutenant General Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman has told the army that last month's failed revolt was a closed issue, defence officials said Friday [21 June].

"Effective measures (against those involved in the attempted revolt) had already been taken and the matter has ended there," they quoted Rahman as saying at a meeting with military officials at Dhaka garrison on Wednesday [19 Jun].

"Officers of all ranks should now dedicate themselves to discharging their duties devotedly, without fear and without being confused by propaganda and rumours," Rahman said.

His comments, also carried Friday by THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER daily, coincided with a defence ministry statement this week urging people not to be misled by "imaginary" news reports relating to the armed forces.

Such reports published in newspapers "mislead the public mind and tarnish the image of the national army," the statement said, and asked reporters to "check with the authorities concerned before publishing such sensational reports."

Former army chief lieutenant general Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim and six other senior military officials were dismissed while seven others were forced to resign following the May 20 revolt which was put down by troops loyal to the government.

Nasim and six officers were released last week from an army guest house in Dhaka and were allowed to move freely after a military court of enquiry.

In the past few weeks, some local newspapers have carried unconfirmed reports on more officers sacked or retired for alleged links to the revolt.

The rebellion was sparked when President Abdur Rahman Biswas, who is also in charge of the defence ministry, fired two senior officers. Nasim refused to carry out the order and instead called on troops to move to Dhaka from outlying garrisons.

In military terms "dismissal from the services" implies that Nasim and other sacked officers would lose their ranks and become ordinary civilians with a "dishonorable discharge."

Nasim, the first army chief to be sacked in Bangladesh's 25-year history, and four of the other six officers are decorated veterans of the country's liberation war in 1971 against Pakistan.

India

India: Official—Participation in CTBT Negotiations To Continue

BK2406162096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India will continue to take part in the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT]

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negotiations in Geneva to prevent any objectionable obligations being imposed on it. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, the foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, said India still figures in the list of countries annexed to the draft Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Such inclusions put obligations on India to ratify the treaty.

Mr. Haider said India will not accept or allow any language to be part of the treaty that will affect its sovereign right of deciding not to sign the treaty. He said India will remain engaged in the negotiations in Geneva to closely monitor that nothing concerning India's security is compromised.

The foreign secretary pointed out that a corrigenda to the draft treaty does not address any of the concerns that were voiced by India while rejecting the draft treaty. Mr. Haider said the five permanent members of the UN are still consulting each other to resolve the differences, but India's main concern in critical areas apparently are not being addressed.

In Geneva, the chairman of the CTBT negotiations today presented a new text, which is likely to form the basis of an accord. However, the Dutch ambassador, who is chairing the talks, conceded that the amended text does not meet India's demand for a pledge to work toward total nuclear disarmament within a fixed timeframe of 10 years.

India: Ambassador Has Not 'Slammed the Door' on CTBT Talks

BK2106133296 Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Jun 96 p 11

[Article by C. Raja Mohan: "India Adds to Tension at CTBT Talks"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, June 20 — The Indian declaration that it will not sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in the present form has added to the inevitable tensions that grip the last stages of any multinational negotiation. The Indian Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Ms. Arundhati Ghose, gave a sharper edge to the endgame on the CTBT when she asserted today that India will have nothing to do with a treaty that does not meet its disarmament goals or national security interests.

The Indian statement did not come as a total surprise to the delegates here. Over the last few days there has been extensive reporting by the Western wire services, quoting Indian newspapers, that New Delhi was about to disengage from the CTBT. Official delegations here have been cautious in their reactions, unwilling to say very much at this stage. There is some relief among them that India has not slammed the door shut on the CTBT. Ms. Ghose has neither quit the talks nor threatened to veto the treaty when it is ready.

The non-governmental organisations are apprehensive that the Indian position might jeopardise the prospects for the CTBT. Greenpeace applauded the Indian sentiments in favour of disarmament, but said it "deplores any veiled threats that India would refuse to sign a CTBT." The peace and environmental organisation says it wants all countries, including India, to join the treaty to achieve the goal of disarmament. It also demanded of the P-5 that if they want India's support for the CTBT, "they should make a commitment not to develop, produce or deploy new nuclear weapons and to seek greater nuclear disarmament — instead of using Entry-Into-Force requirements to bully India into joining the CTBT."

Direct opposition to P-5

By putting its cards on the table, India has placed itself in direct opposition to the five nuclear weapon powers, the so-called P-5, that are shaping the basic provisions of the CTBT. This confrontation has left the conference with a problem that appears very difficult to resolve.

The nuclear weapon powers are preparing to steamroller a CTBT that does not satisfy India's requirements. India's demands for disarmament and a tight definition of the scope of the treaty's obligations, on the other hand, are absolutely unacceptable to the P-5. So why not part ways without rancour?

The prospects for such a happy ending do not appear to be too bright at this moment. The P-5 are insisting that the CTBT will not enter into force without India's signature. And India of course will not join a CTBT that it does not like. Finessing this problem is likely to be at the heart of the talks here for the next few days.

Solutions

One solution is to provide a waiver for the "Entry-Into-Force" provisions being demanded by the P-5. Some American officials apparently favour a mechanism that allows the CTBT to come into operation five years after it is signed, even if the three threshold countries — India, Pakistan and Israel — do not sign it. Will the other nuclear powers accept such a waiver? Even if they do, India's principled objections to the CTBT will continue to be valid.

A second solution is for the P-5 to give substantive concessions on the scope and disarmament provisions of the treaty. Pakistan's Ambassador, Mr. Munir Akram, told Indian reporters, after Ms. Ghose delivered her speech, that there was still time for the non-aligned

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nations to press for disarmament concessions in the CTBT. The Iranian delegate has suggested that the position of the P-5 on the scope of the treaty may be acceptable, if they give clear commitments to terminate the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and agree to a time-bound framework of disarmament in the preamble of the CTBT. But will the disarmament crumbs the P-5 may drop satisfy India?

The Chairman of the negotiating group, Mr. Jaap Raamaker, the Dutch Ambassador, is reportedly working with the P-5 delegations to present a final text of the treaty in the next few days, and force everyone to fall in line. The text will be watched by the non-aligned for any serious disarmament concessions and a change of language on the conditions for "Entry-Into-Force." And that will depend on the kind of deals that the P-5 can agree among themselves. Whatever the P-5 may cook up in the next few days, India may find it difficult to get on board the CTBT.

India: BJP Criticizes Government's Common Minimum Program

BK2206161396 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has demanded a fresh look at the antidefection law. Addressing a news conference in Bhopal today, the former prime minister and the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, said that an all-party meeting should be called to consider the issue.

Mr. Vajpayee ruled out any possibility of a BJP-BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] alliance for the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections.

Mr. Vajpayee also released to the press the economic resolution adopted by the national executive of the party. It criticized the common minimum program of the United Front government, describing it as vague and self-contradictory. The resolution also demanded that austerity measures announced by the government must cover all sections of society, including private and public sectors.

India: Further on BJP's Deliberations on Future Elections

BK2306080496 Madras THE HINDU in English 22 Jun 96

[Report by Neena Vyas—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BHOPAL, June 21—The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has not let go its dream of leading India into the next century, and, hoping for a mid-term poll, perhaps as early as next year. Mr. L. K. Advani, party president, today called upon his partymen to help expand the BJP's base rapidly into new geographical areas and create a support base among new social groups to make this dream a reality.

The national executive committee of the BJP, which began its three-day deliberations here today, will be looking at the 1996 Lok Sabha election results, and the post-poll political situation in which it finds itself isolated, to find ways to expand its base rapidly to leapfrog into a situation in which it can try to get a majority on its own whenever elections are held. Mr. Advani has warned the party that it should be prepared for early polls at short notice since the United Front Government headed by Mr. Deve Gowda cannot be expected to last its full term.

The executive committee meeting will also take a close look at the Uttar Pradesh [U.P.] situation where Assembly polls are due within a few months. The task before the party is thus twofold — prepare for the U.P. Assembly polls and make plans for a giant stride forward in the next Lok Sabha election. This was clearly spelt out in the party president's address to the executive.

Mr. Advani reiterated his old thesis that the Congress, the principal pole in the Indian polity for over four decades, was "in a state of terminal decline" and that a political "vacuum was being created by the Congress disintegration." The BJP, he said, must find a way to rapidly move in to fill the vacuum, to emerge, as it has already done, as the main political party in the country.

While dwelling on the various scandals, especially the latest urea scam, that shook the Narasimha Rao Government over the five year period of the Congress rule, Mr. Advani also warned that the kind of factionalism that had reared its ugly head in the BJP would not help. The political situation, in his view, was favourable for the BJP, but its full potential can be realised only if unity, determination and discipline are restored at all levels of the party organisation, he emphasised. He did not need to elaborate. The message would have gone home in a State where the BJP lost power in 1995 because of internal bickerings within the party. The central leadership, in Gujarat, has yet to take radical steps toward curbing the grossest kind of indiscipline that has been on display.

"Historic Task"

Mr. Advani focused on the "historic task" before the BJP, to lead the country to its glorious destiny in the next century, a task it had set itself during the plenary session of the party in Mumbai [Bombay], in November

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last year. Although the Vajpayee Government was not able to get off the mark, Mr. Advani was optimistic that the task would be fulfilled as the country would see a mid-term election before the next century dawns.

Talking about the importance of probity in public life, Mr. Advani, alleged that the Prime Minister, Mr. Deve Gowda, had "laboured hard in Parliament" to "play down the gravity of this malignant malady." Mr. Advani suggested that Mr. Gowda does not take the problem of corruption seriously, that the United Front [UF] Government was in the job of protecting the Congress party, on which it depends for its survival.

He also took the former Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, to task for pointing out, while talking to Congress workers in his Berhampur constituency that the Congress support to the UF Government would not be a blind support, that the support would be withdrawn if the Government is seen to be doing anything against national interests. He juxtaposed this remark against Mr. Rao's speech on the confidence motion moved by the Deve Gowda Government in Parliament when he said that "History will not say that it was because of the Congress party that the Deve Gowda Government fell."

It was not very clear what Mr. Advani's objections were, but he suggested that the two statements were somehow contradictory. Perhaps, in his view, support should mean blind support even if a Government does something not perceived in national interest.

Considerable space in his five-page text was devoted to Mr. Rao's speech in Parliament spelling out the reasons why he and the Congress think the BJP is a communal party. He was "amazed" that the BJP's stand on the uniform civil code and its demand for the scrapping of Article 370 were cited by Mr. Rao as evidence of its communal character.

For a party which has declared that the Congress is on the path of disintegration, that it has almost disappeared, Mr. Advani spent a lot of time talking about the Congress, and said very little about the BJP or the Janata Dal and the regional parties which form the United Front.

Silent On Third Force

His silence on the "Third Force" was a clear signal that despite the brave talk of "going it alone" and making it to the corridors of power on its own strength, the BJP is very much leaving the doors wide open for alliance with the regional parties, whenever the next round of elections are held.

The party's hint of rapid expansion in new geographical areas and creation of support among new social groups is an admission that the party must do more to attract the Backwards and the Dalits to it. In fact, this was the point that was emphasised by the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, at a meeting on the U.P. election strategy in New Delhi two days ago. The party seems to be aware that it must counter, in an effective way, the rapid gains made by parties like the Bahujan Samaj Party in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh [M.P.]. The criticism that the BJP has not done enough by way of equitable representation to the Backward Castes has come strongly from within the party, both in U.P. and in M.P.

India: Congress Forms Alliance With Regional Party in State

BK2406141796 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress and the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] has formally announced the formation of an alliance for the Uttar Pradesh [state] assembly elections. The Congress president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the BSP leader, Mr. Kansi Ram, told newsmen in New Delhi this afternoon that the Bahujan Samaj Party will contest about 300 seats and the Congress about 125 in the 425-member assembly. Mr. Kansi Ram said if the alliance comes to power, the BSP general secretary, Miss Mayawati, will be the chief minister. He said the alliance can be extended to other states like Madhya Pradesh. Mr. Rao said there is a need for understanding between secular parties to fight communal forces. Mr. Rao said his party's alliance with the BSP will have no adverse impact on the stability of the government at the center.

Iran

Iran: Daily—Summit Must 'Critically Analyze' Peace Process

LD2306112196 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 23, IRNA — Arab leaders who are meeting in Cairo to discuss the Middle East situation have to critically analyze the provisions of the so-called peace process in the region if they want to make the summit meaningful, the daily THE MUSLIM wrote Sunday [23 June].

It stressed that Arab leaders should spell out the terms of peace that need to be achieved and the steps to ensure national commitments from both sides.

"They should ask for a peace that is not acceptable only to the kings and amirs but also to the people of the Arab countries," the editorial said.

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It also underlined that it would even be "more unfortunate for the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular if they targetted Iran in the name of Arab solidarity and security," stating this move would not only be counter-productive to their own cause but the rhetoric of American-sponsored propaganda against Iran would also relegate the real issue of how to handle Israel."

Such actions would "indeed send a message of solidarity to Israel and those 'friends', who are unhappy with Iran simply because Tehran has comprehended the true spirit of the Middle East peace process and has been voicing its criticism ever since that fatal hand-shake on the lawns of the white house," the daily commented.

Iran: Commentary Sees Cairo Summit as Appeasing Arab Public Opinion

LD2306203996 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1701 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the last two days, Arab countries gathered together in Cairo in order to confront the Zionist regime's policies since Binyamin Netanyahu came to power. By announcing that occupied territories would retain that status, carrying on with building settlements, preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state, and keeping Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist regime, Netanyahu drew a line across all the compromise accords and caused anxiety among Arab countries and sought renewed confrontation.

Nevertheless, the raising of side issues at the Arab summit, differences of opinion between the participating countries about the summit's main agenda, and warnings from the United States that Arab countries should refrain from taking any hasty steps prevented the adoption of a firm stance on confronting the Zionist regime's expansionism.

Despite the initial excitement about the Arab summit, it concluded with a soft and gentle stance, calling on the new prime minister of the Zionist regime to honor the process of compromise. Even this soft and gentle stance was raised under the shadow of other side issues, so as not to cause any displeasure to Tel Aviv and the White House. This is why political analysts see the Cairo summit as merely an effort to reduce pressure from regional public opinion of the Muslim people who are constantly calling on the officials of their countries to confront the expansionism and acts of aggression of the Zionist regime.

Iran: 'Realistic' Stance of Arab Summit a 'Constructive' Step

LD2406143196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The two-day Arab summit, issuing a statement, came to an end on Sunday 23 June. Regional issues, such as [word indistinct] of the developments in the so-called peace process and establishing a coordinated stance after the election of the new right-wing Zionist Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu topped the agenda.

Although it was expected that, due to internal disputes, the summit would not reach a clear outcome, the experts consider the [?accords] of the final statement to be constructive, because the Arabs managed to establish a unified stance against the expansionist policies of the Zionist prime minister.

Political experts evaluated the joint and final statement of the Arab heads to be important for two reasons: Firstly, a part of the statement is about the occupied lands and against the Zionist regime. Secondly, the second part of the statement refers to Arab issues, such as [?the world], and regional issues concerning the Arabs. In this statement, Arab heads called for the immediate restoration of negotiations on all aspects with the Zionist regime based on three conditions: The establishment of Palestine, with Bayt al-Muqaddas [Jerusalem] as its capital; complete withdrawal of the Zionist regime from the Golan Heights to the borders of 4 June 1967; and the unconditional evacuation of southern Lebanon to the international borders.

According to political experts, taking such a clear and coordinated stance toward the new policies of the Zionist regime can strengthen the stance of the Arabs in the Middle East under the new conditions.

Meanwhile, the issue of the UN Security Council embargo imposed against Libya was among the other important issues addressed in the final declaration of the Arab summit. The Cairo conference indirectly addressed the necessity of lifting the sanctions to prevent further losses by the Libyan people. However, based on the final statement of the Cairo Arab Summit, it is noted that Arabs have had a more realistic stance toward the current Middle East issues. This is a constructive step that can be backed by a massive support of the people in the Arab world and Arab countries.

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Iran: Rome Talks 'Bode Well' for Failure of U.S. Embargo

LD2106133096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 21 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union ended their sixth round of talks in Rome on Thursday 20 June. Italy's Foreign Ministry issued a statement at the end of the talks, speaking of the friendly, productive, and unequivocal atmosphere of the talks. The statement adds that the two sides discussed their favor [as heard] issues as well as global problems, and agreed to continue serious talks between Iran and the EU side.

These last talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the EU kicked off on Wednesday 19 June in the Italian capital of Rome. The head of the Iranian delegation was Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi, who held talks with EU's top officials from Italy, Spain, and Ireland. EU's talks with Iran, dubbed the critical talks, speak of a disagreement of views between the EU and the U.S. in their stance toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. The United States believes that any talks with Iran would be futile, and that just exerting strong political and economic pressures would be helpful. A pressing question is that why the United States considers the EU's talks with Iran futile? And what is its end following this policy? [as heard]

There is no doubt that the United States is still dreaming of stretching its dominance over Iran, like the pre-revolutionary era. But that is not all. It also wants the EU and other giant Asian powers to follow the regional and global policies of America. But on the other side, Asia and Europe will not give up to this demand, since bowing to U.S. pressures translates into ignoring their own interests. As the EU was involved in holding its latest round of talks with Iran in Rome, the European Commission spokesman in Brussels bitterly condemned the passing of a law for tightening the U.S. trade embargo against Iran in the U.S. Congress, calling it in contradiction with the provisions of international trade. However, the Rome talks and the European Commission spokesman's statements bode well for the failure of the U.S. trade embargo and the attempts to tighten it against Iran.

Iran: Commentary on U.S. 'Meddling' in Election of UN Chief

LD2406164196 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Testing the Necessity for UN Restructuring: Butrus-Ghali's Bid for Reelection"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali will be winding up his term in the United Nations at the close of this year. Consistent with previous secretary generals of the world body, he has announced that he will run for a second term.

The fate of his re-election bid seems to be sealed. Michael Mccury, President Bill Clinton's spokesman, has said that Washington would certainly block Butrus-Ghali from serving a second term, using its Security Council veto if necessary. The reason given is that he is incapable of initiating critical reforms that are deemed necessary for the world body.

There are two points worth discussing in this Tom and Jerry episode.

First of all, the underlying reason behind Washington's dissatisfaction with Butrus-Ghali's performance is his unfavourable report on the Qana bombing — pinpointing guilt on the Israelis by saying the raid was intentional on their part. The bias is clear and Butrus-Ghali's performance is definitely not the issue.

Butrus-Ghali could count on the support of the Middle East and most African countries. But the Third World is said not to be satisfied with his performance as well. Again, this is beside the point.

It is the privilege of any incumbent to run for re-election. But to be re- elected to head a 185-country world body simply because he is able to please its biggest financial contributor puts the integrity of the body to test. Furthermore, it puts the prospects for world peace dangerously at the mercy of the rich and powerful.

The U.S. illusion of a new world order (and what its officials term as a giant leap to the 21st century) will reveal the real reason behind the U.S. disappointment with Butrus-Ghali.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Washington began plans for world domination. It has so far succeeded in one of its plans: To hijack the United Nations into serving its own interests. The world body's approval of joining U.S. allies in ousting Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in 1991 was an instance of consummate hijacking.

Though most of the world welcomed the collapse of the bipolar world order, succeeding events, by and large, prove that the world has become an arena of a conflict

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of interests. Nonetheless, the world body continues to be dominated by its biggest financial contributor — the United States — while pledging to cater to the needs of a changing world order. Obviously the United States continues to reap the profits of its investment. Is it any wonder why the slightest independence on the part of the secretary general invokes Washington's wrath?

The trend is obviously dangerous not only for the cause of world peace but also because it puts the necessity for the continued existence of the United Nations in question. It is not the efficiency or inefficiency of Butrus-Ghali which is a stake. Rather, it is credibility of the world body to decide impartially in conflicts involving countries where the head is subservient to the interests of a few.

Secondly, there is nothing wrong for a secretary general to seek re-election. What is unconscionable is for Butrus-Ghali's chances for reelection to be conditioned on the United States endorsing his candidacy. For the secretary general to beg for Washington's support, thus: "I hope they will change their minds", once the United States declared its decision to oppose his candidacy, is humiliating.

On the other hand, if Butrus-Ghali were to get re-elected because of U.S. support, the world body shall have lost its raison d'etre. It will not be the same organization that was created half a century ago but only an illusion of it.

The other members of the powerful Security Council — plus Japan and the EU — must apply their clout to stop Washington from meddling in the election of the UN secretary general. They can start by exerting all the influence they can to make it pay its $1.4 billion debt to the United Nations. The entire General Assembly should also come up to its responsibility to the world community. The members must see to it that the world body continues to function according to its mandate by working for its restructuring into a more representative, transparent and independent body.

Iran: Fallahian—Country's Regional Role Neutralizes U.S. 'Plots'

LD2406090296 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qom, June 24, IRNA — Minister of Information [Intelligence] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahian here Sunday [23 June] stated that the prospect of Iran as a regional power would neutralize the plots masterminded by the U.S. and its allies.

Speaking at a gathering in this holy city in the south of Tehran, he added the political and security structure of the Middle East region is in such a way that it heightens the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran: Possibility of Netanyahu Government 'Collapse' Seen

NC2206063296 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 18 Jun 96 p 15

[Political commentary: "Netanyahu Cannot Go Much Further"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Netanyahu's announcement about his cabinet program, which includes rejection of any land concessions to the Arabs, has doused the hopes of those Arab governments that believed the circumstances in the region would lead him to relinquish his extremist policies. It has clearly transpired that the Arabs are up against a consummately extremist and impudent government that nurtures the dream of a "Greater Israel."

In view of such a program, can the Arab governments continue negotiations with Netanyahu's government and resolve their differences with him? Among the Arab leaders, some are willing to give Israel any kind of privilege for the sake of making peace.

But there are some Arab leaders who are influenced by public opinion in their countries and have kept in mind the "minimum" and "red lines" they cannot go beyond at any cost. For Syria, these red lines are the complete retrieval of the Golan Heights and, for the Palestinians, an independent state on Jordan's West Bank, both of which the Netanyahu government opposes vehemently.

You can predict, then, that any talks with Netanyahu's government will not offer the slightest progress for the Palestinian Authority or Syria. The result will be an impasse in the "peace" trend and the cresting of popular protests and armed operations, especially in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Since the Netanyahu government program considers it its right to use all its security and military might to combat what it calls terrorism, there is no doubt that this regime will unleash unprecedented violence against any popular protest and will endanger the region with another war.

In such circumstances the United States and all its Western allies will pressure Netanyahu's government to change its policies. But any such change will be tantamount to the collapse of the Likud coalition. This is because this government gave numerous promises to the fascist groups to obtain a majority in the Knesset; if it reneges on them the fascist groups will leave the coalition.

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You can confidently say that the Netanyahu government program will inevitably bring about its collapse and downfall — unless the Likud Party can first arrange a coalition with Peres' Labor Party.

Iran: Velayati Meets With Bosnian Ambassador to UN

LD2306194996 Tehran IRNA in English 1932 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — Bosnian Ambassador and representative to the United Nations Muhamed Secirbegovic in a meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Crans Montana, Switzerland, today thanked Iran for its support for the just stands of his war-ravaged country.

In the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the latest developments in the Balkans.

Velayati briefed Secirbegovic on the decisions taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran at the meetings of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for the rebuilding of Bosnia.

He said Iran is determined to contribute to the reconstruction efforts in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina under the new situation.

Iran: Editorial Attacks UK for Accusing Iran of Bahrain Crisis

LD2106162496 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Jun 96 p 2

[Editorial: "On the Blessings of Silence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This is not good, not good. When one is accused of something one knows not to be true, should one respond in kind or keep quiet?

If you respond in kind, you become like the accuser: an unfair blabbermouth. If you keep quiet, they will say, you see, he must be guilty; otherwise he wouldn't be smiling like a Cheshire cat.

The accuser: the British government. The accused: the Iranian government. The subject: Causing sedition in Bahrain.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the West no longer has the same "evil empire" to roar at. Therefore, it has created another "evil empire": The Islamic Republic of Iran. The policy here is: Whenever something happens, blame Iran. Create an ugly ghost with which to frighten Arabs, Israelis, and the West itself. It's an all-purpose ghost.

Cure? (No, "cure" is too strong a word). Treatment: Sell arms to Arabs, Israelis, or anyone who buys the theory that, if you don't watch out, Iran will attack you! Wouldn't you like to have an AWACS? Or how about 20 F-14s? A nuclear bomb perhaps?

In fact, when former NATO secretary-general, Willy Claes, was asked, Now that the Soviet Union no longer exists, what is NATO defending against? He replied: "Islam".

The West has found that having an enemy is a useful thing. So long as there was a Soviet Union, there was somebody to punch. It is difficult to punch free space. So now, anything that goes wrong: Iran did it. Or Muslims did it. (Oklahoma Federal Building bombing, for example).

Of all nations, we would recommend the British government to keep quiet on this matter. For the simple reason that wherever Britain ruled and then left, she left the area in a shambles. Note India/Pakistan; Israel/Palestine; and...excuse me, did we hear Bahrain?

Iran: Joint Subcommittee Discusses Security on Border With Turkey

LD2206101196 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khoy, W. Azerbaijan Prov., June 22, IRNA — Promotion of good neighborly relations, bilateral trade, and economic cooperation were discussed here Friday [21 June] night at the session of the security subcommittee of the Iranian city of Khoy and the Turkish city of Van.

During the meeting Abdulqader Sari, governor general of Van Province underlined the need to expand the two countries' economic and political relations.

The subcommittee holds regular quarterly sessions in border cities with participation of the two provinces' officials.

Iran: Commentary Views Turkey-Syria Relations

LD2306163896 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Jun 96 p 16

[Unattributed Commentary: "The Insubordinate Neighbor"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It seems as if Turkey is preparing itself for a military offensive on Syria. This is why Syrian forces have been put on standby behind the joint border with Turkey. With the escalation of tension on the Turkish-Syrian border, the Arab League has adopted a clear stance, condemned Turkey's actions and declaring its support for Syria.

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According to news agencies, at least 40,000 Syrian soldiers are on full alert on the border with Turkey. Since a month ago, the Syrian government has seen Turkey — which has signed a military accord with the Zionists, allowed Israeli planes to use Turkish airports and conducted joint air exercises with Israel — as a serious new front in which the Zionists are at the helm.

The Syrians believe that the Zionists are not just posing a threat to Damascus from their own border with Syria but via Turkish territory. This threat, of course, is also felt by Turkey's other neighbors to a greater or lesser extent. However, since the Syrians are considered to be the main party involved in the Middle East conflict, they recognize the ramifications of the Turkish-Israeli accord particularly well in the current delicate and sensitive circumstances. Of course, Turkey's political and propaganda sources are deliberately overlooking the Israeli factor in the totality of factors influencing relations between Ankara and Damascus, and are only pointing to the Kurdish problem.

Turkey claims that many of the rebellious Turkish Kurds, which are mostly organized within that country's Kurdish workers' party, known as the PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party], are based within Syrian soil. This is an allegation that Turkey has also raised repeatedly against Iraq and, in the last decade, it has, on numerous occasions, pushed its air and ground forces deep into Iraqi territory, and has embarked on massacring Iraqi Kurds in the north of that country. The pretext of the presence of Turkey's Kurdish rebels inside Iraq, on the one hand, and the greed with which Ankara's officials view the oil reserves in northern Iraq, including Kirkuk, on the other, have emboldened the Turks to carry out occasional forays into their southern neighbor's territory. This impudence arises in part from the rights Ankara sees for itself as a result of its solidarity with the expansionist aims of the U.S. forces known as "Poised Hammer". [passage omitted]

Despite all this, Turkey has been a major looser in its alliance with the Americans and their secessionist aims in the region, because this country has learned clearly that assisting in the dismemberment of Iraq is an ugly and reprehensible policy, which can even pose a serious threat to Ankara's national sovereignty over important parts of eastern and southern Turkey. In the years that have passed since the northern part of Iraq has become separated from the government in Baghdad, this region has become a refuge for Turkey's rebellious Kurdish groups, posing a potential threat to that country's territorial integrity and national sovereignty. Thus, the Turkish government learned very quickly that, possessing a 14 million strong Kurdish population, spread out over at least eight provinces, it would be the first and biggest loser in the event of the establishment of a Kurdistan independent from Baghdad and Ankara on these two countries' borders, and that the fire that has been lit in northern Iraq by the West via Turkey has set Turkey ablaze before any other region. [passage omitted]

Turkey also has many outstanding problems with its eastern and northern neighbors. For this reason, it is not in the interests of Ankara's statesmen to transform themselves in this way, as proxies of their American masters and Zionist allies, into a new crisis center and a second Israel in the Middle East.

Iran: Borujerdi Comments on U.S. Policy Toward Afghanistan

LD2406161996 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA — "Washington's attempts to mediate among Afghan warring factions is not out of benevolence, but a reaction to Iran's successful mediation between the Afghan Government and Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], the party of Golboddin Hekmatyar," the deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, said here on Monday. [24 June]

Borujerdi, commenting on the invitation by the U.S. Government of Afghanistan's major factions to hold a three day hearing session in Washington, told the English language daily TEHRAN TIMES that the U.S. has embarked on an effort to have a more active role in Afghanistan, but "we don't think they are really concerned about the misery of the Afghan people."

"Moreover," Borujerdi said, "now that the train of peace has begun to move with mediation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the White House is trying to jump on the peace band wagon, on the one hand, and undermine the peace process on the other."

We call on all Afghan groups participating in the talks to be very cautious while discussing with the U.S. officials, he warned, saying that history proves the U.S. has never looked with favour upon Islamic countries of the region but, on the contrary, has always tried to undermine the interests of the Muslim countries.

Washington cannot play a positive role in the war-torn country because the Afghans do not trust it, he pointed out.

Meanwhile he welcomed the alliance of Hezb-e Eslami and the government of Afghanistan, saying it is the first step towards achieving comprehensive peace in the country.

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He also said that the Islamic Republic of Iran would continue its efforts aimed at encouraging the Afghan leaders to forge new agreements similar to that concluded between President Rabbani and Hekmatyar.

"We will continue our talks with the Taleban and encourage them to join peace talks," he said, adding, there is no military solution to the Afghan crisis.

Iran, India Reportedly Form 'Secret Chemical Weapons Deal'

LD2306105696 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 23 Jun 96 p 26

[Report by Con Coughlin, chief foreign correspondent: "Iran in Secret Chemical Weapons Deal With India"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran's campaign to develop its own chemical weapons arsenal is about to receive a massive fillip from a secret multi-million-pound deal with the Indian government which will supply banned materials used to manufacture poison gas.

Under the terms of the deal — believed to be worth more than 10 million — the Indians have agreed to construct a sophisticated chemical plant at Qazvim, on the outskirts of Tehran, the Iranian capital.

The plant will be used to manufacture phosphorous pentasulphide, a chemical that can be used for making pesticide but that is also a vital agent in the manufacture of chemical weapons.

The chemical has been identified by the Australia Group — an international body set up to curb the development of chemical weapons — as a "trigger" agent, a crucial component in the development of lethal chemicals.

Phosphorous pentasulphide can be used to make the same kind of chemical weapons used by the Iraqi dictator, Saddam Husayn against the Kurds, with devastating effect, at the end of the Gulf War. It can also be used to make primitive chemical weapons which could be fitted to ballistic missiles for use against Iran's long-standing enemies, such as Israel.

Countries such as Britain and the United States, which are members of the Australia Group, are obliged to observe strict restrictions on the use of phosphorous pentasulphide. Neither Iran nor India is in the group.

The deal was negotiated earlier this year on behalf of the Iranian regime by Melli Agrochemicals, an Iranian company specialising in pesticide production. But security experts believe the deal was authorised by Dr. Majid Tehrani Abbaspur, Iran's chief security adviser and a close associate of President Rafsanjani.

Mr. Abbaspur is closely involved with Iran's attempts to develop its own nuclear and chemical weapons arsenals, and has been given a special budget of millions of dollars to buy the necessary technology.

According to details of the deal acquired by THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, the Indian Government has authorised a leading Bombay company to build a "turn-key" chemicals complex for the Iranians. The Indians would build the entire development and simply give the Iranians the key to the site when it is complete.

The Iranians raised the possibility of a deal during a state visit to Delhi by President Rafsanjani last year. High-level negotiations have been taking place ever since and work on the complex is expected to begin later this year.

The deal is likely to incur strong condemnation from the United States, which is in the vanguard of an international effort to limit Iran's ambitious weapons plans. It could also prompt the Americans to freeze the $2 billion India receives annually in U.S. aid. "We are deeply concerned about the implications of this deal," a Western intelligence expert commented last week. "It is clear that Iran wants this chemical for non-peaceful purposes, and it is very disturbing that the Indians are prepared to supply it to Iran."

Iran's attempts to develop its own chemical weapons arsenal date from the mid 1980's, during its eight-year war with Iraq. During that war, Iraqi troops launched more than 200 chemical attacks against Iran, causing widespread casualties.

The late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni initially hampered Iran's efforts to develop its own capability, decreeing that chemical weapons were against Islamic law, but he relented shortly before his death in 1989, enabling Mr. Rafsanjani to develop an Iranian chemical weapons arsenal.

Western security experts believe Iran's programme to acquire weapons of mass destruction is part of the ayatollahs' attempts to strengthen their influence throughout the Middle East.

President Rafsanjani has ordered intelligence officials to increase terrorist attacks in mainland Europe.

The terrorist offensive, authorised earlier this year by Iran's Supreme Council for National Security, is being masterminded from Iran's embassy in Bonn, which THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH has revealed as the headquarters of Iran's terrorist operations in Europe.

The latest attack was against a leading Paris-based Iranian dissident, shot dead in his apartment last month.

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A suspect detained by French police was found to be working for Iran's embassy in Bonn.

The international effort to counter the mullahs' terror campaign was bolstered at the end of last week when an estimated crowd of 25,000 attended a rally in London hosted by Maryam Rajavi, a leading opponent of Iran's Islamic regime.

Mrs. Rajavi, one of the main targets of Iran's death squads, called on the international community to take a decisive stand against what she called Tehran's "export of fundamentalism and terrorism."

Iran: Rafsanjani Addresses Participants in Zoroastrian Conference

LD2206142396 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has told participants in the sixth international Zoroastrian conference that the successful holding of the meeting in Iran was because the sacred religion of Islam stresses the need for a spirit of benevolence, understanding, and solidarity among divine religions.

He said: Common principles among these religions are more important than differences among them.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on clerics and students of the various religions to bring the beliefs of the followers of the various religions closer through debates and discussions, and to strengthen the spirit of peace and justice enjoyed by the divine religions in confronting worldly and materialist schools.

The president said: The canons of the Zoroastrian faith, including monotheism and the necessity of righteous ideas, speech, and behavior are also evident in Islam.

He said that the holy Koran repeatedly stresses the need for pure thoughts, abstention from suspicion, respect for promises, and righteous acts and that various brilliant aspects of Islamic law, including benevolence, kindness, care for others, and respect for moral ethics are also evident in Zoroastrianism.

He stressed freedom of action and a peaceful and tranquil life for the religious minorities in Islamic Iran and said: It is in the interest of all countries to create sincerity, cooperation, and coexistence between their religious minorities and the ruling official religion. Such cooperation and friendship helps progress, development, solidarity, and the reinforcement of common ideas and principles.

The president pointed to the fact that Zoroastrians across the world see Iran as their homeland as all Iranians do, and said: For Zoroastrians, specially for those from abroad, it is astonishing to see that since the Islamic revolution, Azerbaijan [Province], the birth place of Zoroaster, has been liberated from deprivation and is now enjoying huge and unparalleled development in industry, economy, and culture.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke about Iran's total political independence and the significant efforts of the Iranian people in achieving economic independence under the blessings of Islamic laws.

He said: Iran is currently being built and managed by Iranians, and political decisions are made free from foreign influence and only according to the Islamic and national interests of the people. This is a source of honor and pride for the Iranian people.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Parviz Ravani, the Majles deputy for the Zoroastrian minority, thanked the esteemed leader for his generosity and the president for the care shown toward the international gathering of the Zoroastrians.

He said: Zoroastrians from across the world think of Iran as their true homeland and dream of visiting this country at least once in their life. He added: Through the generosity of the Islamic Republic, the Zoroastrian minority is living in total freedom and comfort and is helping the development of its dear homeland.

The Zoroastrian Majles deputy also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for the support provided for the sixth international gathering of the Zoroastrians which has been held with the participation of 850 Iranian and foreign Zoroastrians. He said that the aim of the conference was to discuss religious, cultural, and human issues related to Zoroastrians.

Iran: Majles Deputy Says JRM Will Have Clear Majority

LD2106163296 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 19 Jun 96 pp 1, 13

[Headline: "JRM Will Have Clear Majority in Majles, Rasulinezhad"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran: People's representative from Damavand and Firuzkuh, Seyyed Ahmad Rasulinezhad, yesterday said the Hezbollah faction (Jame'e-ye Ruhaniyyat-e Mobarez or JRM) will gain a clear majority in the fifth Majles.

In an exclusive interview with 'Iran News', Rasulinezhad said Hezbollah is comprised of those who believe in the guidelines set by the leader of Islamic Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, and endeavours to achieve the objectives the leader sets for the nation.

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In a recent interview with 'Iran News', Tehran representative Hasan Ghafurifard said that the JRM will be converted into a political entity on the line of Hezbollah.

Hezbollah has been formed to preserve the values of the Islamic revolution, Rasulinezhad said.

"We pre-planned and formed the Hezbollah in order to block the way of the liberals who found a way to get into the Majles and want to compromise with the oppressors," he said.

The liberals have made a tactical retreat from their original position in order to buy time, he said, adding that they are biding their time and trying to find other MPs to join them later.

"The day when they will discover the lawmakers of their own thinking in the Majles, they will start their activities again," he said.

Rasulinezhad said that by liberal he means the Servants of the Construction or the G-6.

"They will be present in the presidential and Majles elections, they have their own plans for the Majles," Rasulinezhad said.

"The G-6's participation in the Majles elections was a prelude to their planned all-out participation in next year's presidential elections," he said.

"They are planning to form a strong front of different factions who share the same views," Rasulinezhad said of the G-6.

The G-6 groups factions that have different views on national and international issues but they follow identical views which call for keeping Hezbollah away from politics and government, the Firuzkuh deputy said.

Members of the G-6 want to use their organization as a launching pad for higher posts, he said.

Rasulinezhad is a member of Majles Trade Commission and was also a deputy in the fourth term of the Majles.

Liberals have various candidates for presidency and they are assessing them on the basis of their popularity among the masses, he said.

"If their own candidate is not approved by the Guardians Council, they will support another approved candidate if he shares their political views," he said.

The Damavand deputy said the Hezbollah faction in the Majles will choose a presidential candidate on the basis of the Leader's guidelines and values, adding that "at present, all these attributes are found in Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri."

Rasulinezhad quoted Ayatollah Khamene'i during his meeting with members of parliament yesterday as saying: "Protecting the representatives' freedom and independence to legislate was one of the reasons why I advised active cabinet members against interfering in the elections. Some heeded my advice while others ignored it, however, they were allowed to continue with their duties but their actions will be recorded in their files."

The MP said at present there are no plans to impeach any cabinet member since the parliamentary alliances are still being formed, "but based on the guidelines of the leader, I think those ministers who despute the leader's advice persist in pursuing their old way and continue to have close and irregular contact with certain MPs, should resign before being impeached by the legislature...[ellipsis as published] They should learn from past experience and adjust their behaviour according to the latest guideline set by the leader of Islamic Iran."

Iran: Rafsanjani Hopes Fight Against Drugs Increases

LD2406194496 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA — President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said at the threshold of the International Day Against Drugs (June 26) here Monday [24 June] that the efforts of the Islamic Republic for curbing the smuggling in of drugs from Afghanistan and Pakistan had been largely successful.

He said Iran had fiercely fought drug tarfficking and would continue to do so in the future. He also expressed hope that the masses would collaborate with law enforcement officials to eradicate drug abuse and drug trafficking.

President Rafsanjani who was speaking at the 52nd Assembly of Drug Control Headquarters expressed hope that the world governments, and Iran's neighbors, would show more concern about the problem.

On Monday, members of the Drug Control Headquarters also adopted certain amendments to the law for rehabilitation of addicts which will become law upon approval of same by the leader and subsequently by the National Exigency Council that has the last say on lawbills.

June 26 is the International Day Against Drugs at which national governments report the results of their yearly campaigns against drugs.

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Iran: Moqtada'i on Iran's 'Tough' Anti-Drug Campaign

LD2506101796 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Prosecutor General Ayatollah Morteza Moqtada'i said Iran's battle against illicit drugs en route to other destinations is as tough as its campaign against drug dealers inside the country. In an interview with the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' printed Tuesday [25 June] on the eve of the international day against drug trafficking, he outlined Iran's comprehensive and decisive anti-drug policy which was adopted following the culmination of the Islamic revolution.

The Islamic republic has not only incurred great expenses in the battle against dangerous drugs but has cost the country several martyrs who risked their lives in fighting international gangs involved in drug smuggling through Iranian territory as well as those operating domestically, he underlined.

Dismissing U.S. accusations of Iran's involvement in drug transit activities as baseless allegations, the ayatollah said such charges are whimsical in view of Washington's failure to present any document supporting its claims.

On the contrary, he noted, clashes between Iran's law enforcement forces and international armed gangs involved in the border transit of narcotic drugs are a usual occurrence and are proof of Iran's sincerity and determination to stamp out the drug menace.

He further referred to the seizure of 142 tons of narcotics across the country over the past year by the Law Enforcement Forces.

Iran: Over 8,000 Kg of Narcotics, Firearms Seized in Baluchestan

LD2206215096 Tehran IRNA in English 1936 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., Jun 22 (IRNA) — About 8,094 kilograms of various kinds of narcotics were seized from traffickers in this southeastern province of Iran beween March 20-June 20, and as many as 232 persons were rounded up on trafficking charges. The province has a long border with neighboring Afghanistan.

Narcotic control squads also seized 92 firearms, seven walkie-talkies, four rocket propelled grenades, five grenades and three field glasses from armed traffickers in various [word indistinct] over the same period.

Additionally, other items, some of them contraband, were also seized from suspects that included 568,106 liters of fuel, 25,000 liters of motor oil, 316 color tv sets, 9,490,000 smuggled in cigarettes and 368,000 kilograms of peas.

Iran: Thousands Arrested in Recent Drug Busts

LD2406105996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Law Enforcement Forces have destroyed 13 extensive narcotics networks after 800 inspection and identification operations during the past [Iranian] month [ending 20 June]. The forces discovered over 6,000 kg of drugs and arrested 2,800 pushers, dealers, and distributors during the period. A significant number of guns, ammunition, and vehicles were confiscated. The forces also arrested 7,000 addicts who were handed over to the courts.

A nation-wide anti-narcotic exercise last month was instrumental in the discovery of the networks.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Prime Minister, President Discuss Strike, Budget

BK2406163396 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 24 Jun 96 p 12

[Report by Raja Zulfikar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: The issue of strike and JI's [Jammat-i-Islami] planned protest for June 24 (today) came up for discussion when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called on President Farooq Leghari Sunday afternoon.

The President and the Prime Minister, sources said, discussed at length the opposition-sponsored strike throughout the country and the future protest program of the PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)]. The meeting, which lasted for about two hours, also saw a debate on the intensification of the opposition's drive against the government with the Prime Minister describing Opposition's activities as aiming at maligning the government.

The two discussed the overall law and order situation and the scheduled demonstration of the Jammat-e-Islami to be led by its Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed. The two were reported also exchanged views on the budget for the fiscal year 1996-97 and the taxation which has been a subject of criticism.

The Prime Minister reportedly informed the President about the scheduled talks between the government and

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the representatives of the Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry be on Monday (today).

Pakistan: Opposition Leader Describes Strike as 'Referendum'

BK2406165796 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 24 Jun 96 pp 1, 9

[Report by Tariq Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif has described the complete country-wide strike as a Public referendum against government policies, its alleged corruption, unprecedented price-hike and inflation.

"By closing their businesses from Karachi to Khyber, people have expressed no-confidence in rulers and rejected the budget with one voice," he said while speaking in the National Assembly on a day when shutters were down outside.

After finishing his speech, he led the opposition in staging walkout saying it was against arrests and excesses being committed on the Jamaat-i-Islami [JI] leaders and activists, unemployment and the killing of those seeking jobs on merit in Gilgit. He said the Jamaat has planned a peaceful protest, and quoted article 15 of the Constitution which says every citizen has the right of freedom of assembly. The peaceful JI workers have been subjected to excesses by the government he claimed.

A few minutes after he had entered in the House following a three-hour meeting with his parliamentary party, and allies, Prime Minister Benazir left the hall. "She went out as she does not have the habit of hearing the truth: the whole nation is protesting today. She can not face facts and the people's sentiments" he observed. Sharif urged the newspapers not to give much credence to the official talk about the strike and keep in mind their own credibility while reporting on the protest. "PTV cannot save the government. Such people were presented on the mini screen last night who have nothing to do with the business community. The government is now confined to official corridors only."

The opposition leader said the government should be ashamed of passing a budget which the nation has already rejected.

"My information is that the entire business was closed throughout the country. Even in Islamabad, no previous strike was so complete" he claimed.

He said the government "must withdraw the budget immediately and Present a new one, which is acceptable to the people. Their patience has run out because of the price-hike and inflation." He said while the poor, clerks, naib qasids, pensioners, teachers and other low-paid workers have suffered "humiliation" in the new budget, salaries and privileges of the president and prime minister have been raised by 300 per cent. Later talking to reporters, he said the purpose of his speech in the Assembly was to make the government realise the intensity of the protest and gravity of situation.

"Look at the disparity: the poor cannot have even shelter as the cement cannot be purchased because of the high price but on the other side, palaces are being bought." He alleged that Benazir Bhutto's whole empire is based on lies, corruption and anti-people policies. Asked about the next-step, Sharif said perhaps the government will understand the implications of the country-wide strike. "The prime minister's statement that she will not change the budget, shows her self-deceit and how proud she is" he charged.

About her statement that the opposition is looking for dead bodies to give life to its campaign, Sharif said: "They have already given us bodies during the Tehrik-e-Nijat and killed our workers, including Javed Ashraf. "These sacrifices will not go waste. It is the hallmark of the Bhutto family to do such things, a process which started from the Liaquat-Bagh firing case."

Pakistan: Report Details 23 Jun Opposition Strike

BK2406161396 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 24 Jun 96 pp 1, 9

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Opposition sponsored strike against the harsh tax-laden budget widely crippled the commercial life in all major cities of the country on Sunday.

The peaceful shutdown was called by PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)] President Nawaz Sharif to protest against the budget unveiled by the government on June 13.

Traders responded to the call in most cities, but banks and government departments were open and public and private transport was on the roads. Industrial establishments in Karachi and other parts of the country partially operated, though worker turnout was affected.

However, the government circles claimed that the strike fizzled out and the opposition failed to mobilize the people against the government's economic policies.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told a group of the ruling PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] parliamentarians that failure of the opposition's strike reflects people's rejection of the politics of confrontation. She said the people have voted for the government's sound measures.

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On the other hand, Leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif described the complete countrywide strike as a public referendum against the government policies, its alleged corruption, unprecedented price-hike and inflation.

"By closing their business from Karachi to Khyber, people have expressed no-confidence in rulers and rejected the budget with one voice," he told the National Assembly.

However, Nawaz's statement met scathing criticism of Information Minister Khalid Kharal who said, "By locally rejecting or giving a mere lukewarm response to Nawaz League's strike call, the countrymen have given a clear cut verdict against the ill-conceived and trigger-happy policies of the leaders of the opposition."

He said the shopkeepers who closed their shops for a few hours were fearing harm to their business places. He asked Nawaz to accept the realities and behave like a mature politician.

The government had made elaborate security arrangements to prevent any trouble and the law enforcement agencies had been put on high alert. However, the day passed peacefully with no incident of violence reported from anywhere. PML-N sources said police had arrested several party leaders in Rawalpindi and interior Sindh.

According to one report, the control room especially established by the Interior Division to monitor the strike has informed the prime minister that 90 to 100 per cent of the business community in Karachi and Quetta positively responded to the opposition's call and 60 to 70 per cent in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar.

Although the opposition parties did not call for wheel-jam, Karachi transporters largely went off the roads, otherwise the traffic was normal throughout the country.

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: A near complete strike was observed in the twin cities as a majority of the traders pulled down the shutters on the opposition's call. There was a virtual halt to the business activity throughout the day, leaving the otherwise crowded roads deserted. All major shopping centers remained closed, bazaars deserted and their arteries empty. Even vendors and hawkers in Rawalpindi joined in the shut-down. Transport was also thin in Rawalpindi, although the transporters had observed their strike a day earlier. There was, however, no untoward incident except sporadic tyre burning by PML-N workers. Hardly did any incident occur in which people took law in their hands. Police were on maximum alert but they did not have to do much since no one tried to force the closure of the business activity. In Islamabad, police even asked shop-keepers who were present outside their closed shops to start business with the assurance of protection. But, they were in no mood to do so. In the two cities drug stores remained open all the day and no opposition activist disturbed them. Meanwhile, in a statement on Sunday, Central Vice President of Pakistan Muslim' League (N) Shiekh Rashid Ahmed said the strike is a popular referendum against the government. "The strike has shown that the people have rejected the policies of the government and the budget it has announced to break the backbone of the masses." KARACHI: The Sindh metropolis was completely shut on Sunday with all commercial activity suspended and 95 per cent of the public transport off the road. Besides the city transporters, the strike was backed by Mohajir Qaumi Movement, Jamiat Ulema Pakistan, Awami National Party, National People's Party, Jamiat Ahle Hadith and various, other political, religious and social groups. A very small number of buses, mini-buses, coaches, taxies and rickshaws were plying, leaving xhe major commuter load for the Karachi Transport Corporation. All major markets, trade centers and shopping arcades were closed. Roadside restaurants, pan shops, general and grocery stores in residential areas were shut and petrol pumps in many city areas were also closed. Major industrial areas including SITE, Landhi, Korangi, FB Area and New Karachi were deserted as the labour force did not turn up for work. Partial activities were, however, reported in some of the industrial units at SITE industrial area. Shops in the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] stronghold of Lyari with a few exceptions were also not open. The currency market also remained closed. Despite strict official orders, attendance in government offices and even the Sindh Secretariat was thin. Reports say banks, financial institutions and other offices, with the exception of a few, could not operate primarily due to the shortage of staff. However, a State Bank spokesman said the attendance at the central bank's headquarter was 90 percent and the clearing was normal.

Though the security agencies, were in the state of high alert to tackle any trouble, the day passed peacefully without, any untoward incident. "People have expressed their no-confidence against the government which has made the people's life miserable by presenting an unjust budget...the peaceful and unprecedented strike on the call of leader of opposition Mian Nawaz Sharif proved to be a referendum against the budget and the Benazir government as well ... the rulers should step down," remarked Sindh PML-N Chief Syed Ghaus All Shah when contacted by THE NEWS.

The Empress Market and its surroundings were, however, bustling with the activity of vendors who were taking full advantage of the closed shops.

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Police were deputed at all shopping points to check any untoward incident. Though some PML-N Youth groups were seen roaming in the city markets, no violence reported. The offices of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other relevant business bodies like All Pakistan Textile Mills Association were open. However, the attendance remained very thin because the high-ups of these bodies were backing the call in their personal capacity.

The Karachi Stock Exchange was also slow as the market fell down by 4.14 points with the trading of only 5.727 million shares as compared to 36.693 million shares on Thursday. Karachi Stock Exchange President Arif Habib and State Bank Governor Dr Muhammad Yaqub left for Islamabad Sunday afternoon to have a meeting with State Minister for Finance Makhdoom Shahab, Commerce Minister Chaudhry Mukhtar and Asif All Zardari on the budgetary measures.

HYDERABAD: Without any untoward incident, an effective strike was observed in Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Shahdadpur, Tando Jam and Tando Allah Yar. The business activity remained suspended and a few vehicles were seen on roads in these cities.

SUKKUR: A complete strike was observed in Sukkur, Khairpur and Jaccobabad. The strike call was fully backed by the people despite a heavy crackdown of police and administrative pressure on businessmen and political workers. Police arrested Sardar Qadir Nawaz Jakhrani of PML-N on the charge of forcing the shopkeepers to close their businesses. Mir Ahmed Barohi, president of Jaccobabad Chamber of Commerce, was also rounded up by police. Reports from Shikarpur said all bazaars were open. The workers and leaders of PML-N had gone underground three days before the strike.

LAHORE: The capital city of Punjab gave a massive response to the opposition's strike call as the business life remained completely crippled throughout the day. However, neighborhood markets, petrol pumps, restaurants, cigarette and medicine shops, fruit and vegetable corners, banks and a majority of private offices carried out their routine business. Traffic was normal but no jams were witnessed even on the busiest city routes. A visible shortage of private transport was also observed.

LCCI [Lahore Chambers of Commerce and Industry] President, Tariq Saigol while talking to THE NEWS termed the strike successful and said a majority of the industrial units also did not operate. He admitted the chamber offices were practically closed as no one turned up. President of the Punjab Traders Union, Haji Maqsood Butt said the strike was a great success. "The traders have once again demonstrated unity in their ranks by keeping their shutters down for a common cause." President of the Punjab People's Traders Cell Haji Mannan, however, strongly opposed the strike saying that the business community should have talked to the government instead of being used by vested interest. "The apparent success of the strike can be attributed to the fact that a majority of the PML-N city office-bearers are holding key posts in important trade associations." The markets where a complete shutdown was observed included Liberty Market, Shadman, Hall Road, Mall Road, Ferozepur Road, Wahdat Road, Moon Market, Allama Iqbal Town, Auto and Tyre markets, Nila Gunbad, Anarkali, Bano Bazar, Azam Cloth Market, Pakistan Cloth Market, Akbari Mandi, Brandreth Road, Badami Bagh, Shadhara, Sarafa Bazar, Jail Road, Tollington Market, Queen's Road, McLeod Road, Montgomery Road, Beadon Road, Abid Market, Multan Road, Landa Bazar, Shah Alam Market and its adjoining Bara Bazars etc. The areas where partial strike was witnessed were Main Market, Icchra, Model Town, Garden Town, Defense, Cavalry Ground, Temple Road and small markets in northern part of the city.

MULTAN: A complete strike was observed in the city with all big shopping centers closed. The shutdown was observed after the city's traders community unanimously decided to close their businesses to lodge protest against the budget.

FAISALABAD: Nawaz's strike call evoked a partial response in this industrial city of Punjab. The Fruit Market, Timber Market, Bakkar Mandi, Grain Market, Jhang Road, Samandri Road and Narawala Road business centres continued their businesses. However, most of the shops in all these eight bazars and Circular Road remained closed. The shutters of some of the shops were half drawn as preemptive measures against any possible violence by pro-strike elements. The factories and export houses continued their work throughout the day. Police patrolled the city to avert any untoward incident.

SIALKOT: All shopping centers remained closed in Sialkot, Pasrur, Chawinda and Sambrial. However, hotels, fruit and mutton shops remained open in different parts of the district.

Talking to journalists, Anjuman Tajran Sialkot President Firdos Paal criticized the budget and termed it anti-people.

PESHAWAR: Complete shutdown and low traffic marked the opposition's nationwide strike in the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] on Sunday. Shops in all the main business centres in Peshawar including Khyber Bazar, the historic Qissakhwani, Ashraf Road and Cantonment remained closed for the day. There was unusually increased police patrolling and batches

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of police with clubs were seen at several key points to prevent untoward incidents. No incident of violence was, however, reported from anywhere. There were reports of complete strike from Mardan, Swat, Dir, Abbottabad, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, Nowshera (Naseerullah Babar's constituency) and other parts of the province In Mardan, a PPP stronghold, a joint PML(N)-ANP [Awami National Party] procession was taken out which was addressed by Saranjan Khan of the Nawaz League and Rehmat Khan of the ANP. Former NWFP Chief Minister and PML-N provincial chief Pir Sabir Shah described the traders' support to the successful strike as the last nail in the coffin of the Benazir government.

Addressing a press conference here this evening, he said it was a historic strike in NWFP which proved that the masses are not happy with the government policies and its proposed budget for the next fiscal year. "People of Pakistan have rejected the cruel budget," Sabir Shah said. While there was jubilation in the opposition tanks over the successful strike, the provincial government did not sit idle and made last minute abortive attempts to restrain laborers from joining the strike. NWFP Chief Minister Aftab Sherpao met the All Pakistan Federation of Labour (Durrani Group) led by its leader Aurangzeb. The organization which claims representing 24 CBA unions declared it was non-political and had nothing to do with the strike. Minister for Industries Pervez Khattak was also present. QUETTA: A complete strike was observed in the Balochistan metropolis and several other cities of the province. The strike was also backed by several opposition parties who denounced the federal budget, excessive taxes and other fiscal policies of the government. All major business centers remained closed throughout the day. The strike was so successful that the shops in the suburban areas like Satellite Town, Sariab Road, Brewery Road and Samungli Road were also closed. However, public and private transport was normal. Heavy contingents of police and law enforcement agencies had been deployed in the city to prevent any untoward incident. Police arrested at least 10 workers of the PML-N and its allied parties from various parts of the city but later released them. PML-N Ministers Saeed Ahmed Hashmi and Jafar Khan Mandokhel along with some ANP leaders visited various city areas and thanked the business community for closing their shops. The strike was also observed in Zhob, Loralai, Pishin, Chaman, Sibi and Dera Murad Jamali.

Pakistan: Troops Reportedly Ordered To Quell Violence in Rawalpindi

BK2406110296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Pakistan Press International, police used tear gas to disperse a mob in Rawalpindi this morning. Those present in the mob indulged in pelting stones and causing damage to properties. These demonstrators had gathered from different places to protest against the new federal budget. When the violent demonstrators became unruly, police resorted to baton charge and used tear gas to disperse them. According to initial reports, some persons were wounded or killed. Details are still coming in.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1018 GMT on 24 June adds the following: "Pakistani army troops were called out in nearby Rawalpindi Monday after two people were killed and a dozen injured in clashes between police and anti-government demonstrators, official sources said.

"Residents said four people were killed when police fired on activists of Pakistan's main Muslim fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), but a spokesman put the number of casualties at two dead and 15 injured. The JI spokesman identified one of the party victims as Abdus Samad.

"About 100 soldiers have been deployed in the troubled parts of Rawalpindi, defence sources said.

"Trouble broke out as JI supporters assembled in Rawalpindi to stage a march to Islamabad for a sit-in protest outside Prime Minister Bhutto's secretariat."]

Pakistan: Opposition Leader Asserts 'No Kickbacks' in Mirage Deal

BK2406155596 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Jun 96 p 12

[PPI Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD — Deputy leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, Gohar Ayub Khan, on Sunday [23 Jun] supported Pakistan Air Force's [PAF] deal to acquire used Mirage aircraft's saying that it was an excellent purchase which would prove to be very good for Pakistan and its air force.

"There is nothing wrong in the deal with no kickbacks involved", he said while talking to PPI. Gohar, who attended the meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defense at special invitation, said after receiving briefing from the PAF officials on Sunday during the Committee s meeting he was fully satisfied as

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far as purchase of Mirage - 111 aircraft by the PAF was concerned adding that the down payment made for the aircraft was "in order". He said that Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani failed to explain from where the government had received a complaint letter about the deal, why further payment was withheld, why he removed the Director General Defense Production Rear Admiral Khalid Akhtar and on what basis did he order an inquiry. He said all these attempts on part of the Government damaged the reputation of the PAF and Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Muhammad Abbas Khattak. He, however, said the Opposition wanted the government not to go for purchase of Mirage-2000-5 aircraft as it would be disastrous for Pakistan." There are several other options. We can also purchase SU-27 Russian aircraft".

When his attention was drawn towards Russia's hesitation in supply of SU-27 aircraft to Pakistan, he said "we are purchasing T-80UD main battle tanks from Ukraine which are of Soviet origin. Similarly, we can purchase SU-27S from Ukraine if Russia shows any hesitation in this regard."

Earlier, the National Standing Committee on Defense on which met here at the Ministry of defense on Sunday to look into various facts about used Mirage aircraft deal of the Pakistan Air Force found nothing wrong with the contract.

According to an official Press release, which did not answer several questions relating to reported kickbacks in the deal, the total number of aircraft to be supplied and the cost to be incurred, said the committee was given a detailed briefing by Air Force Officers on the process of selection of used Mirage Aircraft, their overhaul and modernization.

The officers of the Defense Production Division apprised the members of the Committee about the process of detailed negotiations leading to the finalisation of the contract. It did not give any details about the observations of the members relating to the deal and other pertinent matters but just gave one sided picture. According to the release, the Chairman and members of the Committee were fully satisfied and highly appreciative of the excellent work done by the Air Force technical team and officers of DP [Defense Production] Division in conducting difficult and intricate process of negotiations. Chairman of the committee' Rao Sikandar Iqbal chaired the meeting which was attended by the Federal Minister for Defense Aftab Shaban Mirani members of the committee, MNAs Rana Mumtaz Khan Noon, Sardar Mansoor Ahmed Khan Leghari, Mir Altaf Ali Bhayo, Haji Mohammad Yakub Khan, Aftab Ahmed Khan Daha, shahid Khaqan Abbassi and the Deputy Leader of Opposition, Gohar Ayub also attended on special invitation. They also said that speculative reports in the Press regarding this contract were very unfortunate as these were casting aspersions on the Pakistan air force, which is a highly professional force.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Dispatch Confirms Tiger Attack on Karainagar Naval Base

BK2006124796 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Black Sea Tiger heroes penetrated the Sri Lankan Navy's most impregnable and important base at Karainagar in the north on 11 June and carried out a successful attack, sinking three naval vessels — two Chavattan [name as transliterated] patrol boats and a baby Dvora boat. A news dispatch from headquarters says the Black Sea Tigers infiltrated the Navy's security zone in that area at 0411 on the morning of 11 June and carried out the successful attack. Black Sea Tiger Major Rambo, alias Ponnaiah Tamil Chelvan from Omantai, attained martyrdom in this assault.

Six soldiers were killed and eight injured in attacks on Sri Lankan troops in the Vadamarachchi and Thenmarachchi areas during a two-day offensive on 13-14 June. Two soldiers were killed and two others injured in a surprise attack on troops engaged in building a fortification near Allippalai junction in Thenmarachchi at 1500 on 13 June. Meanwhile, two soldiers were killed and three wounded in an attack on troops advancing from their security posts at Mandam locality in Vadamarachchi at 1630. Two soldiers were killed in an attack near Ranjan Park in Point Pedro at 1430 the same day.

Major Udayan from Point Pedro was martyred in a direct confrontation with troops at Karkovalam locality in Point Pedro on 13 June. The offensive at Allippalai was carried out on 13 June in retaliation for this attack.

Captain Ganga, alias Chellappa Ganesamurthy from Mutur, attained martyrdom in the operation to destroy Aluveluwa police station the day before yesterday.

Captain Albert, alias Thankarasa Dayalan from Kilinochchi, embraced martyrdom in a direct confrontation with Sri Lankan troops at Puthur in Velikamam on 6 June.

Our tributes to go all the Tamil Eelam national heroes who sacrificed their invaluable, dear, and tender lives in the holy war to retrieve our motherland from our enemies.

Citing the northwestern provincial chief minister, reports from Colombo say that villagers suspect that Sri

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Lankan troops or police massacred 17 civilians in Puttalam District on 11 June. The northwestern provincial chief minister also pointed out that the group that carried out the attack targeted two families and caused minor damage in that locality. Neither the military nor the police turned up, although they were notified within minutes of the assault. The above reports say that considering the mode of assault and the failure of the police or military to rush to the spot, the local villagers suspect the authorities planned and executed the carnage.

Thanks. The Tigers' aspiration is for the motherland of Tamil Eelam!

Sri Lanka: Radio Reports Efforts To Restore Normalcy in Jaffna

BK2006142896 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the Northern Province Resettlement and Rehabilitation Authority, (Sumapala Goonaweera), says that Jaffna peninsula, which has returned to government control after a lapse of four years will return to near normalcy by the end of this year. He told LANKAPUVATH in Jaffna that he was experiencing serious constraints but the government agent, Jaffna, (Chellia Padmanadhan), assisted by other officials, the security forces, and the police were working round the clock to restore order. Top priority was being given to normalize distribution of food, medicines, hospital services, posts, roads, education, and industry. Thirty-seven new public transport buses were operating in Jaffna. Farmers are being provided with the requirements to cultivate 800 acres for the yala [spring] season with paddy, chilies, and onions. Mr. (Goonaweera) said that one of the biggest problems was the roaring blackmarketting of essential commodities. Unscrupulous elements purchase consumer goods from the CWE [Cooperative Wholesale Establishment] and resell them to retailers and consumers in exorbitant prices. He said that the Army would be opening 30 retail outlets in Jaffna with a view to eliminating blackmarketeering till such time the private trade is fully stopped and operational. [sentence as heard]

A group of nearly 40 foreign and local journalists toured the Jaffna area yesterday. They observed the essential works being carried out to normalize life in the area. Two months after Operation Riviresa Two was completed and the Northern Task Force began functioning, nearly 400,000 people have returned to the peninsula. Despite the obstacles, work related to resettlement, rehabilitation, and reconstruction is going on as fast as possible.

The acting vice chancellor of the Jaffna University, Professor Balasundaram Pillai, speaking to journalists said that about 700 to 800 students were now attending lectures. The others had returned from Colombo, East Wanni, or Kilinochchi. Transport was the biggest problem for their return. About 400 members of the staff had returned. Valuable equipment of the laboratory and computers have been looted by the terrorists for the manufacture of weapons of destruction. The vice chancellor said that reconstruction activities have been estimated at 100 billion rupees. Seventeen of the total wards in the Jaffna Hospital have been reopened. Twenty- two doctors were working in the hospital. The director of the hospital, Dr. (N. Kanagaratnam), said that about 1,000 out patients was treated daily.

Our correspondent reported that most of the houses were occupied and many of them now had concrete homes and the farmers were tilling their fields. The supply of electricity was being gradually restored and certain areas in Jaffna will be tapped at night. Britain is assisting in repairing the (Chulakam) power station and once it is operational about half of the Jaffna population will have power.

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